

Hafa Adai!

Villagomez wants more dialogue over ARPA spending plan. **PAGE 2**

'Food is good, but it's a lonely place to be alone' **PAGE 4**

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www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Man allegedly rapes minor inside restroom of church

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An 18-year-old man who had just graduated from high school was arrested over the weekend for allegedly raping a 13-year-old

girl inside the restroom of the Jesus is Lord Church last June 2.

During a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$20,000 cash bail on John Timothy Villasis Vergara, 18, for the charges of

sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual assault in the first degree.

Vergara, who was remanded back to the Department of

See MAN on Page 4

IPI repatriates more workers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC continues to make arrangements to repatriate its remaining foreign workers, with the next batch set to depart the CNMI this Saturday.

In a status report filed with the U.S District Court for the NMI, IPI lawyer Michael Dotts said all remain-

ing Taiwanese workers have been booked and are scheduled to leave this Saturday, June 19, and next Monday, June 21.

Dotts told the court that IPI's Filipino workers have expressed an interest in leaving too. They have all been booked for a July-August departure date.

Meanwhile, IPI's Chinese workers are still waiting for the Chinese Embassy to

See IPI on Page 4



'PLEASE DO SOMETHING!'

Del Benson, leftmost, appeals to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors to do something to improve CUC's power system that, according to him is a mess and needs a total revamp, during the CUC board's special meeting last Wednesday. "So I'm pleading, quit talking and do something please. Our system is a mess. And people get so frustrated," he said

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

JURY TRIAL BEGINS IN CHILD ABUSE CASE

'Police mistook his split lip for a cleft palate'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The jury trial of a woman charged with child abuse over

the death of a 3-year-old boy began yesterday with a jury selection and a dramatic opening statement from prosecuting lawyer Coleen St. Clair,

who said Stacey Lani Laniyo punched the child in the mouth so hard that it split his lip, causing the police to mistake it for a cleft palate.

Laniyo, 37, one of two women facing charges over the child's death, faced a jury of eight yesterday. The boy

See POLICE on Page 4

Yumul: I was never arrested

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:46pm, June 14, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **59%**
Fully Vaccinated: **59%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	23,445
Fully Vaccinated:	21,223
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,005
Fully Vaccinated:	3,452
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	355

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,236	8	8,244
Recovered	8,030	33	8,063
Active	34	8	42
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	172,203		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	83		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Saipan Tribune retracts the story titled "Rep. Yumul faces possible arrest, again" that was published last June 14, 2021, and clarifies that Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) was never arrested pursuant to a case filed by Triple J. Saipan Inc. against Pacific Foods CNMI, LLC, which managed the IHOP and Ajisen restaurants.

Further, Saipan Tribune apologizes to Yumul, his family, and his constituents for this breach of journalism ethics and integrity and we also apologize to our readers for our lack of rigor in fact-checking this story.

In an email from Yumul yesterday, he denies being ar-

See YUMUL on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Jhen's Sweet Corner is borne out of Jennifer Ortiz's hobby and passion project.

PAGE 11



NATION

School districts across the U.S. anticipate what will be one of the largest kindergarten classes ever.

PAGE 12



WORLD

Israel's parliament approves a new government, ending the 12-year rule of Benjamin Netanyahu.

PAGE 13



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Local

Villagomez wants more dialogue over ARPA spending plan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez said Friday he wants House of Representatives members to have a dialogue with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres or any of the governor's team to answer questions about the administration's plan on how to spend the \$512.07 million American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Villagomez said in an interview he is pretty sure there are things beyond what Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig showed in his recent PowerPoint presentation on the ARPA spending plan.

Villagomez was unable to attend Atalig's presentation because he had a family matter to attend to that day. He is thinking of meeting with the House members that did attend the presentation so he could be briefed

on what was discussed.

"I know that, based on what is out on the media, there was no time for questions," he said.

Villagomez said he and other House members may request an audience with Torres or maybe just with Atalig or whoever is responsible for managing the ARPA funds so they could get answers to some questions about the spending plan. He said it could be a joint dialogue with the Senate.

Last June 4, Atalig presented details of the CNMI government's spending plan for the \$512,076,165 ARPA funds. "This is a significant amount of funding that will benefit all our branches, autonomous agencies, departments, and this will provide significant direct assistance to the public," said Atalig in his presentation before officials and members of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, mayors,

private sector, and other community leaders at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan (formerly Saipan

Fiesta Resort and Spa).

In his speech, Torres said this ARPA funding will propel the CNMI government to the

21st century, through investments in the I.T. infrastructure of the government, creating simpler and more efficient

methods for residents to interact with their government.

Before Atalig's presentation, press secretary Kevin Bautista announced that they would not entertain question "at this time" due to time constraint.

Rotaract shuffles leadership; community events in the works

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
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REPORTER

Current Rotaract Club of Saipan president Keoni Hosono will soon be moving

back into his original role as club secretary, with current director of club service Richard

Baleares assuming the club president role. The leadership shuffle was done so that Baleares can be relieved of social media and other community outreach responsibilities and to shift his focus toward organizing events later in the year.

In a joint interview with Hosono and Baleares after the Rotaract's Summer Shoot-Out and Family Sports Fiesta last Saturday at the Kagman Community center, Hosono wished the best for the club's next president and Baleares detailed what he already has planned for the latter half of 2021 going into 2022.

"I have faith in his ability to lead us in the next Rotaract year. ...I'll be sure to make sure that all of our information is kept up to date, and also I'll be helping to relieve [Baleares] of all his responsibilities of posting stuff on social media," said Hosono.

Baleares said he hopes to work closely with whoever will succeed him as director of club service to continue the Rotaract's community service activities.

Among the possible events he hopes to organize in the future when he becomes club president is for Rotaract to host a "5K Fun Run," another fighting game tournament in November to celebrate the one-year anniversary of Rotaract hosting its first ever Smash tournament last year in November, and a Summer Shoot-Out next year, where he plans to source more basketball racks and other equipment to hold an actual three-point contest and a skills challenge, akin to the NBA All-Star Weekend events.

"We're going to be busy, but we're also going to take it more slowly," said Baleares.

Rotaract's next upcoming event is its "Summer Showdown" on June 26, which will be a fighting game tournament featuring Super Smash Brothers and Tekken 7, with the venue still to be decided. The registration link for the tournament can be found at <https://smash.gg/tournament/rotaract-summer-showdown/details>.

The club can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/rotactsaipan>, and on Instagram and Twitter @rotaractclubofsaipan and @rotactsaipan, respectively.



Rotaract Club of Saipan president Keoni Hosono, left, shares a photo with current director of club service and incoming president Richard Baleares at the end of the club's Summer Shoot-Out and Family Sports Fiesta at the Kagman Community Center last Saturday. Baleares will be club president and Hosono back at his original role as secretary in the next Rotaract year.
JOSHUA SANTOS

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Empowering the CNMI's youth in case of emergencies

The My Preparedness Initiative of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services, or MyPI, is producing many CNMI teenagers who are able to help their fellow community members in the event of any disaster or emergency.

Shaniyah Cabrera, one of the Rota residents who is in the MyPI program, said she is glad to have been a participant. "This program has taught me skills to help not only myself but others around me," Cabrera said. "I am excited to help wherever is needed in the near future. Because of the MyPI program I am able to help out in my community."

Another Rota participant, Hanna Ogo, said that the MyPI program was very beneficial for her. "By gaining all these new skills and information, I can one day help my

fellow peers and community by being there to assist them in almost any emergency," Ogo said. "I would definitely recommend participating in the MyPI program, as it would benefit many of our youth to prepare themselves for future emergencies."

Tinian participants Yesha Reyes and Ryan Nuera shared the same sentiments.

"After doing the classes for MyPI, I am more prepared for natural disasters," Reyes said. "Doing the training in person also helped me to understand how to assist those in need. With the newfound knowledge I have I can help my peers to prepare their families for natural disasters that may occur. I can help my community by offering my assistance after typhoons and other disasters. I'm so glad that I took the opportunity of being a part of the My Preparedness Initiative."

For Nuera, he said he has learned many new skills. "I have learned how I can respond to any disasters and was given the opportunity to battle any disaster that poses a threat to my community," Nuera said. "The MyPI Program is something that I believe every teen in the Marianas should take because it prepares them to help protect their community in times of need."

Remedio "Bedu" Dela Cruz, a Saipan resident in the program, said that she has gained new skills as a result of being in MyPI. "One aspect

that really stuck out to me was the "Disaster Psychology" unit we learned in the program," Dela Cruz said. "I would try to incorporate and tell others about what I learned on this unit and how we have to be careful with our words on specific phrases. Making sure that we are careful with the words that we use when dealing with traumatized individuals is a very important part of disaster recovery."

Leandro Dela Cruz, another Saipan resident, said that he is more aware of the potential disasters a community

can face. "The simple yet effective curriculum that MyPI teaches is incredibly easy to understand," Dela Cruz said. "The information that I, and my peers, learned from the short program is something that I would use to aid my community in times of need, especially since the NMI is in a typhoon-prone area."

MyPI Northern Mariana Islands is a component of the National Youth Preparedness Initiative, a partnership of 27 states and 2 US territories, delivering an innovative and engaging

curriculum for teenagers.

In the CREES, MyPI is being done in partnership with Homeland Security Emergency Management, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Public School System, and the Division of Youth Services.

For more information about the MyPI program, contact Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, NMC CREES Program Leader and MyPI NMI Program Manager at tayna.belyeu-camacho@marianas.edu or 670.237.6841. Interested individuals can also visit <https://mypinorthernmarianaislands.org/> or follow them on Facebook (@MyPICNMI). (NMC)

'Methodical' implementation of Garapan's rehab plan, says OPD

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

With a grant of \$11.2 million from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce it received early this year and 36 months as a timeline, the Garapan Revitalization Plan is being implemented methodically, according to Office of Planning and Development deputy director Chris Concepcion.

"The Garapan Revitalization Task Force is moving methodically with regards to the Garapan Revitalization Project. We are about to announce a Request for Qualifications for project/construction management services soon," he said. "That will go through its process. From there, we enter the 'A&E phase' or the initial phase, which we estimate will take a few months of work since a site survey, architectural design and engineering work will need to be done."

In an earlier interview, Concepcion said the vision is to transform the Garapan Core into "complete streets." Complete streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, jobs, and schools, bicycle to work, and move with assistive devices. They allow public transport such as buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk or move actively to and from bus stops.

In March, the Office of Planning and Development led the water blasting of streets and repainting of park-

ing markers in Garapan. "... In the meantime, to prepare for the reopening of our tourism industry, we are working with our partners at Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and other members of the task force to clean out the drainage systems in Garapan in anticipation of increased rainfall during rainy season. ...A trash cleanup was done by PDM Promotors recently, which resulted in over 500 lbs of garbage collected. To really



Concepcion

tackle the garbage issue, we need more enforcement of our litter laws," Concepcion said.

"We do not anticipate a significant number of tourist arrivals in the beginning since flights are minimal and there are still many restrictions in place for them, but we need to start somewhere and start now because many of our businesses that cater to tourists are in urgent need of revenue to avoid bankruptcy and closure," Concepcion added.

The Garapan Core is mapped from Hyatt Regency Saipan to the Garapan Fire Station corner, then down to where the Cha Café & Bistro is to where Imperial Pacific Saipan is located, and out to DFS on Beach Road.

Concepcion said that after they accomplish the A&E phase, that's when they'll hit the construction phase. "We will continue to move forward with our EDA grant for Garapan Revitalization and I am positive the community will be very pleased with the results once this project is completed."

SLASHED

Prices out of this galaxy!

Samsung Galaxy S20
~~\$999~~ **\$499**
\$80 Unlimited Plan

Samsung Galaxy S20+
~~\$1199~~ **\$1299**
\$80 Unlimited Plan

Samsung Galaxy S20 Ultra
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5 DAYS, NIGHT AT CNMI COVID-19 QUARANTINE FACILITY

‘Food is good, but it’s a lonely place to be alone’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The food is good at the CNMI COVID-19 quarantine facility, but it is a lonely place to be alone, especially when you’re used to having your family around you all the time.

Community advocate Jack Muña acknowledged, though, that being placed in quarantine is necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the CNMI.

In sharing his experience of being isolated from the population through the mandatory five-day quarantine for arriving travelers at the Kanoa Resort Saipan, Muña said it is not easy and uncomfortable to be in an isolated situation, but travelers must bear in mind that everyone is doing this quarantine process to prevent the spread of the virus.

“Everyone must do their share, responsibility, and sacrifices if we all have to make it through this pandemic and God knows when this is going to end. It is a tough world we live in,” he said.

Muña arrived at the Saipan International Airport last June 5 at 5:10am from Guam on a United Airlines flight 174.

He said the COVID-19 team then escorted all the passengers inside the airport and processed them. With so many passengers on that flight, Muña said it took them about two hours be-

fore they were transported to a minibus to the Kanoa Resort.

At the hotel, he said they were lined up to take the COVID-19 specimen test and then escorted to each assigned hotel room to start the quarantine.

“I was kind of lucky to have a room on the fifth floor overlooking the beachfront,” he said.

In the moment before sunsets, he would watch the beautiful sight

of the sun disappearing over the west. At night, he said, it gave him the sense of relaxation looking at the glittering lights of the five military ships anchored off the Saipan lagoon.

In the morning, he said, they are served breakfast, usually consisting of rice, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruits, and two bottles of water. At noon, he said the menu changes, and in the evenings they are served barbecued ribs, chicken, hamburger steak or shrimp, and salad with dressing.

“The food is good and enough to satisfy your appetite,” he said.

Muña said he is satisfied with the food that were always served on time.

He is also very satisfied with the courtesy of the hotel’s staff.

Strict regulations include not being allowed to go out of one’s designated room and not using the balcony at any time. There is no smoking nor drinking of alcoholic beverage.

“You don’t see anyone except only

when breakfast, lunch, and dinner are delivered to your room,” he said.

When retrieving the food, they must first put a chair outside by the door for the server to place the food on the top of the chair, Muña said.

He said they would hear an announcement through the PA system that the food is ready to be retrieved and to bring back the chair inside the room.

Muña said they put their trash once every evening after dinner outside their room and next to their door for pickup.

“All in all, it is a lonely place to be,” he said.

To keep himself busy, Muña would read the local newspapers or watch TV most of the time. Most importantly, he would exercise every morning.

He said on the fifth day of the quarantine, they were tested again in the morning. As his results were negative, he was then released from the quarantine facility to go home—at no cost to him.

For Muña, it was an experience of lonely isolation, especially if someone tests positive and is quarantined for another 14 days.

“But the good part [is] you can call the outside line through the front desk and you can talk to your family or friends...if you don’t have a cell phone,” he said.

To those planning to travel, Muña advised them to be prepared and always try to have a good state of mind to go through the quarantine process.

“I am looking forward to getting to know the people of the CNMI and exploring the island of Saipan. It has been a long-term goal of mine to work here. ...I drifted into healthcare when I was younger, and have discovered it is what I am meant to do,” said Stevens. *(Joshua Santos)*

broom, or her hand or by biting him.

Laniyo, Fitial’s partner, told police that the child was without fear and was very naughty.

Laniyo admitted she had spanked him with a tree branch to discipline him because he was naughty.

Fitial is accused of failing to provide medical care for the child, resulting in his death. Fitial told police that the boy had been ill and was given ibuprofen, which he vomited, before he was observed to have stiffened.

Dr. Philip Dauterman stated that the cause of death was obstruction of the airway due to pharyngitis and tracheitis, contributed by peritonitis due to gastroenteritis.

The pathologist said the boy’s symptoms, which would have been vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, fever, and sore throat, would have been obvious to any reasonable parent or guardian and a cause for concern.

Dauterman said the child was effectively dead when he was brought to the hospital’s ER.

He said they must make sure to have all the required vaccination records, CNMI mandatory declara-

tion form and confirmation numbers, passport, and other documents required for entry to Saipan.

IPI

From Page 1

approve flights back to China from Saipan. Currently, the tentative dates for travel back to China are mid- to late-July.

Aside from repatriation, Dotts also reported that payroll was timely distributed on Friday, June 4, 2021, without issue. IPI’s next payroll is set to be distributed on June 18.

Construction work at the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan remains suspended as ordered by the court.

IPI has also served a second subpoena to the Bank of Guam last June

8, to obtain cashed checks for payroll period ending on Jan. 15, 2021.

Dotts said that once those checks are produced, IPI and the Department of Labor should be able to resolve the issue over how much is still owed to IPI employees.

Aside from IPI matters, Dotts reported that he will be travelling starting on June 21 and, depending on quarantine requirements when he returns in July, he may be out of his office until July 20, 2021. During this time, Dotts said, he will continue to file weekly reports but, as he will be off island when finalizing them, it is possible that some extensions may be requested.

YUMUL

From Page 1

rested and released from the Department of Correction, clarifying that he missed a court hearing and a bench warrant was issued but the hearing was rescheduled after he paid a \$500 fee.

Yumul said the *Saipan Tribune* article that was published on June 14, 2021, “was devoid of many facts, and the most important one was the fact that I was never arrested. I was never ‘released’ from the Department of Corrections because I was never put in prison. Why would your reporter say such malicious things about me?”

In the language of the court documents, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo commanded the arrest of Yumul on April 22 for failing to appear at the April 16 hearing and to have him brought before the Superior Court. In an order upon posting bail on May 26, the language stated that Yumul posted bail in the amount of \$500 and it was ordered that he be released from custody and directed to return to court on June 28.

“I missed a court hearing and subsequently a bench warrant was issued. There was nothing sinister on my part. I paid a \$500 fee and had the date rescheduled. End of story,” said Yumul in his email. *(Saipan Tribune)*

MAN

From Page 1

Corrections, was ordered to return to court on June 21 for a preliminary hearing before Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo and again on June 28 at 9am to be arraigned before Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

According to court documents, two sexual abuse of a minor cases were filed against Vergara: one for an incident that allegedly happened in Micro Beach back in August 2020, and another that allegedly happened in the restroom of the Jesus is Lord Church last June 2.

During an interview with the victim’s mother on June 8 at around 11:24am, she told Department of Public Safety investigators that Vergara raped her daughter for the second time in the church’s restroom during a church anniversary practice.

On Wednesday, June 9, a DPS investigator attended a forensic interview with the victim at the Division of Youth Services where she alleged that the second incident happened at around 7pm on June 2.

The victim stated that she was using the female restroom outside of the church and when she was about to step out, Vergara allegedly pushed her back into the restroom, pushed her face first against the wall and proceeded to remove her pants and

underwear from behind her before allegedly forcing himself on her.

She further stated that she was scared of Vergara because he was older, stronger, and “people would believe what he had to say.”

On June 11, a forensic interview was conducted with a minor who allegedly witnessed Vergara coming out of the restroom after the incident. She said the victim had told her she was going to use the restroom and after waiting for her for about 15 minutes, the witness said she went outside the restroom to wait for the victim and that’s when she allegedly saw Vergara walk out of the female restroom and observed that he was panting and appeared nervous before rushing to close the restroom door.

The first incident that happened on August 2020 was reported at the Commonwealth Health Center on Jan. 25. During an interview with Dr. Heather Taylor, the victim wrote on a paper that when they were celebrating her brother’s birthday at Micro Beach, she went into the ocean with her mother’s friend’s son, Vergara. The victim said she allegedly felt Vergara’s hands on her chest before he pulled her pants down and his penis entered her vagina. That prompted the doctor to report the incident to DPS. There was no immediate word why DPS failed to act on the first incident.

POLICE

From Page 1

was allegedly found with multiple injuries as a result of severe beatings. Laniyo’s co-defendant in the case is Lynn Fitial, who is the child’s legal guardian.

The prosecution, led by St. Clair, gave their opening statements, telling the jury that they will hear testimonies from witnesses within the household that saw first-hand the abuse that eventually led to the death of the child.

“Today you will hear how Laniyo hit [the child] with a branch for defecating himself. She hosed him down then hit him with a branch. Three days before his death, Laniyo forced him to do pushup. His wheezing and gagging could be heard from outside Laniyo’s bedroom while he counted his pushups,” she said.

“Witnesses at home will say that they saw Laniyo punch [the child] in

the mouth causing his severed lip that police had mistaken for a cleft palate. They’ll tell you how Laniyo locked him in the room for days at a time and he would emerge with new injuries,” she added.

The prosecution will also call to the stand expert witnesses from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. who responded and conducted the autopsy on the child.

During the first day of trial yesterday, St. Clair called to the stand Department of Public Safety’s Mary Luis Tanaka, who was the lead investigator of the case. Tanaka identified photos she had taken of the child at CHC that allegedly showed scars, scratches, and bruises that indicated child abuse. The photos were admitted as evidence.

The trial will continue today with the prosecution set to call Fitial to the stand.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the alleged abuse happened last March 12 when Laniyo allegedly hit the child with a tree branch, a



Muña

Taimanao is acting MCS president in new school year

Mount Carmel School recently announced that school principal Frances Taimanao has been appointed by the school's board of directors to serve as the acting president for the 2021-2022 school year.

This transition comes as no surprise to the MCS community. In 2020, school president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero communicated to the school's board of directors that he intends to apply for Northern Marianas College's president position. In May of this year, Deleon Guerrero was unanimously elected by the NMC board of regents as the institution's next president.

Deleon Guerrero made the recommendation to the MCS board based on Taimanao's professional experience, years of commitment to the school, and his confidence in her abilities to lead Mount Carmel during this transitional period. "Mrs. Taimanao was well aware of my potential departure from MCS well before I applied to serve at the college," said Deleon Guerrero. "There is no doubt in my mind that Mrs. Taimanao is the most suitable person to serve as acting president."

Taimanao has over 20 years of teaching experience through the CNMI Public School System and 15 years of teaching experience at Mount Carmel School. She earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Guam and is currently pursuing her master's degree in education from Framingham State University through Northern Marianas College. Additionally, Taimanao has served a total

of five years as principal and has taken on many leadership roles at MCS.

"I am humbled and grateful for this opportunity to serve as the school's acting president,"

said Taimanao. "Through [Deleon Guerrero's] leadership these last 10 years, Mount



Mount Carmel School principal Frances Taimanao will serve as Mount Carmel School's acting president for the 2021-2022 school year.

MCS



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Power interruptions on June 15 and 16, 2021

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on June 15 and 16, 2021, in Koblerville today and tomorrow, June 15 and June 16, 2021.

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

■ Outage Time: 9am to 1am (Estimated)

■ Area(s) Affected: Koblerville (Ahu Dr.)

■ Distribution Circuit: Kiya 2

■ Water Well Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To replace a rotated primary power pole and to lift sagging primary power lines.

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

■ Outage Time: 9am to 1am (Estimated)

■ Area(s) Affected: Koblerville (partial of Adobu Dr. and Gollai Apan Ct.)

■ Distribution Circuit: Kiya 2

■ Water Well Affected: None
■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To replace a rotated primary power pole and to lift sagging primary power lines.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hotline at 236-4333 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

SHEFA deadline set

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is reminding applicants that the deadline for the fall 2021 "application only" is July 01, 2021 (Thursday). (PR)

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'na'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Tao-tao Tāno'* (Commission on

CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second June monthly virtual meeting on June 17, 2021, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom link. Call Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for link, special accommodations and agenda at 480-4047 (rblaskumision@gmail.com). (PR)

Revised water hours for Kagman

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that effective June 8, 2021, the Kagman scheduled water hours have been revised as follows:

■ Kagman I and II — Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6am to 6pm

■ Kagman III — Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 6am to 6pm

This schedule will remain in effect until further notice. (PR)

Carmel School has grown tremendously and we aim to continue the culture growth well beyond his administration. I would like to especially thank Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez and the school's board of directors for their faith in me as they prepare an official presidential search committee."

Vicente Babauta, who chairs the MCS board of directors, commented on this transitional year as they work closely with Jimenez to organize a presidential search later this year. "On behalf of the board of directors, we fully support [Deleon Guerrero's] recommendation to

have Frances serve as the acting president during this time. Mrs. Taimanao was instrumental in ensuring the safety of the school community and through her leadership, MCS has all the current safety protocols in place to open face-to-face."

Mount Carmel School's 2021-2022 school year is scheduled to start on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021. Registration is ongoing for certain grade-levels. Mount Carmel School recommends that families register as early as possible before grade-levels reach its restricted capacity. (PR)



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **New Business**
 - a. Security Services for Tourist Sites
 - b. Safety Videos Airtime and Production
 - c. Personnel – Managing Director Annual Review and Contract
- 4) **Executive Session**
- 5) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 6) **Adjournment**

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DPS-103

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 22, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“(A) PURCHASE OF TWENTY-FIVE CLASS “I” 2WD POLICE PACKAGE SUV VEHICLES (BLACK) (PATROL UNITS)”

“(B) PURCHASE OF NINE CLASS “I” 2WD POLICE PACKAGE SUV VEHICLES (BLACK) (K9) VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **ROBERT A. GUERRERO**
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-21-2028

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Purchase, Design, Develop, Test and Installation of Research System

Submission /Closing Date:
Time:

Submit sealed proposals to:

August 13, 2021
3:00 p.m.

Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **June 09, 2021** at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road**, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before **August 13, 2021** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Deputy Managing Director & Research Manager, Judy C. Torres in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to jtorres@mymarianas.com and tboyer@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time on **July 30, 2021**.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ONE (1) GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Prepare, examine or analyze accounting records, financial statements or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards.
- Develop, implement, modify and document record keeping and accounting systems, making use of current computer technology.
- Compute taxes owed, prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other tax requirements.
- Inspect book of accounts and accounting systems for efficiency and use of accepted accounting procedures.
- Organize and maintain financial records.
- Assess financial operations and make best-practice recommendations to management.
- Suggest ways to reduce costs, enhance revenues, and improve profits.
- Develop, maintain and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in Accountancy
- Five (5) years experience in Accounting or Finance
- Must have knowledge in Synchronics CounterPoint, QuickBooks Pro Accounting and Microsoft Office programs.

WORKING HOURS: Full Time (40 hrs/week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
Rate of Pay: \$14.85-\$15.00 / Hour

The employer will pay or exceed the prevailing wage as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Thomas T. Chong
Transamerica (Saipan) Corporation
P.O. Box 501579, Saipan, MP 96950

By Facsimile: (670) 234-8080; or by email: humanresource.tc@gmail.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

123rd Philippine Independence Day

Photos by
JOSHUA SANTOS

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio “Eli” Arago, and members of the CNMI Legislature join Saipan’s Filipino community in its celebration of the 123rd Philippine Independence Day on June 12. Last Saturday’s celebrations began with a Philippine flag-raising and signing of a CNMI-Philippines Friendship proclamation in the morning at Marianas High School, and ended with a motorcade parade in the afternoon that began at Dandan Middle School and ended at Garapan Fishing Base.



Saipan Marianas Lions Club donates \$3,500, wheelchairs



Saipan Marianas Lions Club members pose with Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri Ogu-moro in a presentation of a \$500 check from the club to Karidat on June 4. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club donated a total of \$3,500 and two wheelchairs to four community organizations last June 4, using the proceeds from its 3rd Annual 5K Walkathon that was held on May 2.

The club donated \$2,000 and two wheelchairs to the

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Dialysis Center, and \$500 each to Karidat Social Services, Commonwealth Cancer Association, and the Tan Holdings Football Club. According to outgoing president Ladyvir Dela Cruz Canape, the club chose these organizations in particular to support the Lions Clubs International's global causes—re-

lief for diabetes, world hunger, and childhood cancer. Additionally, Canape said the club chose to donate to Tan Holdings' soccer team to "promote a healthy lifestyle [for the] youth by playing soccer."

Some of the donation recipients who spoke with *Saipan Tribune* on Monday expressed gratitude for the club's generosity.

"We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for thinking of CCA. ... They've always been supportive, and the \$500 they donated to us will go toward our Patient Assistance Program," said CCA executive director Juan L. Babauta.

Nikki Villagomez, director of the CHCC Dialysis Center, said that everyone at the center greatly appreciated SMLC's donations. Villagomez said the two donated wheelchairs are much-needed backups in case any of the center's fleet of wheelchairs break down.

CHCC Community Guidance Center goes to Rota

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center headed to Rota last Saturday, June 5, 2021, to spread information about resources available to women to overcome challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 40 participants attended the presentations at the Rota Grace Christian Academy and the Rota Christian Assembly's Refresh and Renew Ladies Fellowship Conference.

Daisy Villagomez-Bier, manager for the CGC Behavioral Health Response Program, shared the importance of being supportive and understanding of one another. She emphasized that seeking guidance from family, friends, and agencies can help with the overwhelming challenges experienced in life, and that no one is alone when it concerns mental health.

"We need to break the stigma and as mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, and members of our society, we need to show our families the importance of taking care of our mental and physical wellbeing," said Villagomez-Bier. "When we make the time for our own self-care, we are able to continue to provide support and guidance in the lives of our families and our community."

Guest speakers included Catherine Perry and Sandy Howard of Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan; Elaine Kinsella of Grace Christian Ministries; Elvira Mesngon of the

CNMI Public School System School Counseling; and Jesusa B. Calvo of FILCOR of Rota.

To ensure the success of the conference, Jessica Barcinas, Systems of Care wraparound coordinator, and Vanessa Quitugua, Rota Health Center resident director, coordinated with Anne Acuna, principal for GCA Rota, and Pastor John Manglona and Agida Q. Manglona of Rota Christian Assembly of God. **(PR)**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Romando D. Lagrio) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
Petitioner) NO. 21-0156

Vs.) SUMMONS FOR
) PUBLICATION
Marietta G. Lagrio)
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDED: Marietta G. Lagrio

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505011 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 26th day of April, 2021.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-105
 SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“(A) PURCHASE OF NINETY (90) DELL LATITUDE 7520 LAPTOP”
 “(B) PURCHASE OF EIGHTY-THREE (83) DELL THUNDERBOLT DOCK WD19TBS” “(C) PURCHASE OF NINETY-FOUR (94) WIRELESS COMBO MOUSE AND KEYBOARD KM5221W” FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-107
 SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“(A) PURCHASE OF THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (366) DELL 27” MONITOR S2721HS” “(B) PURCHASE OF THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (366) DISPLAY PORT CABLE” “(C) PURCHASE OF TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE (231) UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY (UPS)” FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-106
 SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE (231) DELL OPTIPLEX 7090 DESKTOP” FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

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/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DPS-102
 SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 22, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“(A) PURCHASE OF TWENTY-FIVE CLASS “F” PICK UP TRUCK WITH OFF ROAD PACKAGE” VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

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/s/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Marianas Lions Club members pose with Commonwealth Cancer Association staff in a presentation of a \$500 check from the club to CCA on June 4.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Marianas Lions Club members pose with Tan Holdings senior vice president and chief finance officer Glicerio "Eli" Arago in a presentation of a \$500 check from the club to the Tan Holdings Football Club on June 4.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The two wheelchairs that the Saipan Marianas Lions Club donated to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Dialysis Center on June 4. The club also donated \$2,000 to the center.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A couple cases of COVID on a cruise should surprise no one

Take a vaccine with a 95% rate of effectiveness, get a large enough sample size, and statistically speaking, it should be pretty obvious what's bound to happen.

So while conspiracy-minded anti-vaxxers point fingers over news that the first fully vaccinated cruise to set sail in North America included a couple of COVID cases, anyone who knows 95 is less than 100 ought to have assumed this would be the case—if not on the first cruise, then certainly within the first few.

But while the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are 94%-95% effective at preventing infection, they are 100% effective in preventing serious disease in multiple clinical trials. So while it comes as no surprise that a tiny percentage of people (i.e. two out of 600) on this cruise tested positive for COVID, it's just as unsurprising that both of these fully vaccinated cruisers were asymptomatic. Even when the vaccine failed to prevent the disease, those who were infected still had a level of protection.

This cruise sailed from Aruba and is headed to Barbados. Of course, it didn't sail from Florida, where state law bans businesses from requiring customers be vaccinated. The cruise should serve to, once again, provide evidence that cruises should only be undertaken when all or at least the vast majority of cruisers are fully vaccinated.

We have editorialized repeatedly that Gov. Ron DeSantis should reconsider this ban on vaccine passports, or at least provide some exception to the cruise industry. Given what's happened on this cruise, we continue to hope he changes his mind.

© 2021 South Florida Sun Sentinel

Rebuke of Marine general was the right thing to do. That punishment sends a message

The drowning deaths off the San Diego coast of eight Marines and a sailor who were just 18 to 23 years old in July reflected incomprehensible incompetence on the part of military leaders. It led to Lt. Col. Michael Regner, the commanding officer of

See COVID on Next Page

MARGULIES
©2021 www.janmargulies.com

What Kamala Harris' callous message to migrants really means

Kamala Harris' first international trip as vice president started in Guatemala with a blunt message for migrants: "Do not come," she said, shaking her head at a news conference with Guatemala's President Alejandro Giammattei. "Do not come."

It's possible that the message was meant less for the ears of migrants than for Fox News pundits and Republicans who relentlessly mischaracterize the Biden administration's halfhearted steps toward a humane immigration policy as "open borders."

Regardless, with those three words—"do not come"—Harris signaled disdain for the rights of asylum seekers under federal and international laws and dashed many people's hopes that she might reform U.S. foreign policy in the region, which has long involved a contradictory combination of humanitarian aid and support for militaries that attack human rights.

Harris traveled to Guatemala to address the "root causes" of immigration, such as poverty and violence. But she made no mention of the U.S. role in those conditions, such as training right-wing death squads, financing coups or investing in extractive and exploitative industries. She promised to fight corruption but left out the U.S. role in fueling corruption.

Our understanding of corruption in countries south of the U.S.-Mexico border is deeply flawed because it conceives of the problem as separate from ourselves and endemic to the region, rather than tangled up with American foreign policy, investments, gun smuggling and firearms exports. When U.S. leaders talk of corruption in Latin America, it fuels racist tropes about Latinos by failing to acknowledge U.S. complicity.

Instead of tackling that complicity, Harris announced tens of millions of dollars in more aid, such as a \$40-million "empowerment" initiative for "young, primarily Indigenous women," and bragged about convening "some of our biggest CEOs" to increase investments.

But even a cursory glance at those CEOs reveals disregard for history's lessons. Among the companies is Nespresso, which was found to have Guatemalan child labor in its supply chain last year. Many coffee producers dread the Nestlé-owned company.

"Nestlé hurts us a lot," Miguel Tejero, a coffee industry leader in Oaxaca, Mexico, told me. He said the company floods markets with cheaper Robusta coffee, decreasing demand for the high-quality Arabica that small-scale producers grow. Studies show that less than 10% of the wealth from coffee stays in producing countries.

Rather than encouraging more investment from corporations that guzzle profits, the U.S. should invest in infrastructure for vulnerable communities to process, package and sell their own

By JEAN GUERRERO
Los Angeles Times

Jean Guerrero is an investigative journalist and author of *Hatemonger: Stephen Miller, Donald Trump and the White Nationalist Agenda*. She is a contributing writer to Opinion.



value-added products, Tejero said, as well as in the promotion of such products.

But while Harris had meetings with young women entrepreneurs, her primary function was as a human stop sign: "Do not come," she said, warning that migrants who came to the border would be "turned back."

The administration previously enlisted the militaries in Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico to block the flow of migrants. Biden's budget requested \$27.5 million in military financing for Central America, even though Congress approved a ban on military financing for Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador because of their documented, recurrent involvement in the massacre of Black and Indigenous people.

After a day in Guatemala, Harris traveled to Mexico City, where she met with Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, announcing millions to "address child and forced labor" and more bilateral cooperation to stop migration. After meeting women entrepreneurs there, too, she declared the trip a "success." Then she flew home.

"Vice President Harris has made clear that the United States is going to itself continue to be a root cause of the crisis in Central America," Dana Frank, a history professor at UC Santa Cruz, told me. Roberto Lovato, a journalist who has written about mass murder backed by the U.S. in El Salvador, said: "It's all lipstick on the same ugly, murderous, greedy pig of U.S. policy."

The Biden administration has left many of Trump's immigration policies in place, including shutting out asylum-seeking adults. Officials know that border optics are a potent weapon for Republicans to fuel baseless white racial anxieties.

This isn't the first time a Democratic administration has caved to xenophobic Americans. President Obama backed Plan Frontera Sur for border militarization to southern Mexico. And in the 1990s, the Clinton administration built new fencing and boosted Border Patrol resources as "deterrence," which led to

See KAMALA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Better things to fight for than Juneteenth

By **DONNA JACKSON**

InsideSources.com

Donna Jackson is a member of the Project 21 black leadership network. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.



Like many Black Americans, I must admit that I had never heard of Juneteenth until recently.

So the push now to make this celebration of emancipation a national holiday certainly didn't come from me or anyone I know. It sure seems as though it's part of a bigger agenda being imposed on the Black community by those who never bothered to ask us. And while elevating Juneteenth to such prestige may seem relatively harmless, it comes with the baggage of radicals who are also promoting critical race theory, reparations and self-segregation.

It's time for Blacks to counter such extremism with a productive agenda based on faith, patriotism and a love for all mankind.

The more I learn about critical race theory, for example, the more I realize it is definitely not my worldview. As an American, I reject the notion that our nation is irredeemably flawed. Indeed, I am thankful I was born and raised here. I refuse to succumb to anger rebranded as social justice. As a human being, I have no desire to divide people into incompatible tribes. Nor do I see the sense in trying to make up for past racism against Blacks by visiting it upon Whites.

I resent that the people peddling all of this nonsense claim to speak for the Black community when I know they do not.

As a Christian, I look beyond individual differences and see the potential for good in everyone. If I can't love my brothers and sisters whom I can see, how can I claim to love a God I can't? Based on the ideology of critical race theory, I would have to hate God too.

So as far as Juneteenth goes, I am happy to have the Fourth of July—Independence Day—instead. The Declaration of Independence and our Constitution are unrivaled among other nations. And I say that knowing full well that Blacks didn't get their freedom until several generations after 1776.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. also understood this, and he remained hopeful. His belief in America radiated throughout his "I Have a Dream" message—his goal that one day people would not be judged by their skin color but by their character, and that all would receive the promises of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Dr. King strongly believed in America, and he was confident that it would someday live up to its full potential. He never saw any reason to give up on the American experiment or harbor bitterness and hatred. And he applied the fight for freedom and equality to all of God's children despite superficial differences.

We could do worse than to make Juneteenth a holiday, but—to the extent we look back through history—it would be better to learn other lessons that will help Blacks in the present and future.

We often overlook the history of Black innovators and entrepreneurs. More children should learn stories like that of Madam C.J. Walker, a Black business owner and America's first female millionaire of any race, who overcame the obstacles against her over a century ago. That spark of entrepreneurship still exists in the Black community, but greater knowledge of this kind of history would only increase it.

Whether June 19 becomes a national holiday or not, I am glad I'll be spending it in America. The future can be bright, so long as we Black Americans stay true to ourselves and reject the hateful nonsense being thrust upon us.

KAMALA

From Page 8

thousands of deaths.

We must understand that people risk their lives to get here not because of the inviting or uninviting words of an American president but because of terror at home—often enabled and supported by U.S.-backed armed forces that target Indigenous people.

Near the end of her trip, Harris deflected criticism about her failure to visit the Southwest border, insisting that she was trying to address the "root causes," which can't be "fixed in one trip that took two days."

But as long as our officials refuse to acknowledge our historic, continuing and central role in those problems, people will come. They will come.

COVID

From Page 8

the battalion landing team involved in the tragedy, being removed from command in October. A damning Marine Corps investigation of the tragedy released in March revealed those who died had received poor training on how to escape a sinking amphibious assault vehicle that was in "horrible condition" and should never have been used. That led to the firing of Col. Christopher Bronzi, the commanding officer of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

On Wednesday, new consequences emerged. The commanding general of the Camp Pendleton-based 1st Marine Division at the time of the tragedy has been permanently removed from his more recent post as inspector general of the Marine Corps. Maj. Gen. Robert Castellvi was subject to

Celebrating Juneteenth amid racial inequality

By **SABRINA TERRY and DEDRICK ASANTE-MUHAMMAD**

InsideSources.com

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On Juneteenth, June 19, we celebrate Union Army General Gordon Granger's order to free the people still enslaved in Texas. The holiday marks the effective end of slavery in the United States.

Although President Abraham Lincoln, in his Emancipation Proclamation, banned slavery in all Confederate states 2 1/2 years earlier, it took enforcement by Union troops to actually uproot the practice. As one of the most remote slave states at the time, Texas was in the last wave of enforcement.

Now, over 150 years later, Juneteenth reminds us to be critical of how progress is measured.

In the last month alone, we had two national remembrances of racial injustice: the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd and the 100-year anniversary of the Tulsa massacre. Floyd's murderer, police officer Derek Chauvin, was found guilty this year. And this spring, President Joe Biden became the first president to visit Tulsa and commemorate the massacre.

Both events have been celebrated as turning points in popular American public opinion toward racial justice, yet there is still little evidence of meaningful systemic reforms. A year after Floyd's murder, Congress still hasn't passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020. And the few remaining survivors of the Tulsa massacre have yet to receive reparations from their federal, state or local governments.

In his Tulsa speech, Biden did recognize that addressing the racial wealth divide was essential to bridging racial inequality. He outlined commitments to build Black wealth by removing discrimination in home equity appraisals and increasing funding for socially disadvantaged businesses.

These measures are welcome but hardly sufficient.

Eliminating racial discrimination in housing assessments is important, but it will do little to address the homeownership divide. In 2018, just 42% of Black households owned their homes, compared with 73% of white households. Actually increasing homeownership—for Black families and all low-wealth households—will require mortgage products that require little to no down payments, since most Black households are liquid asset poor.

Biden's proposal also doesn't tackle the lack of affordable housing stock. Bold proposals like the 21st Century Homestead Act, which focuses on revitalizing large clusters of abandoned properties as affordable housing, could make a huge impact here.

Biden also proposed to spend \$100 billion on minority-owned businesses over five years. That's a substantive and welcome increase, but it's not clear how much of that \$20 billion a year will make its way to African-American businesses. Considering about 95% of Black businesses have no employees, procurement dollars are likely to affect a small share of them.

If you're talking about supporting Black entrepreneurs, two things would make a huge difference: universal health care and unemployment insurance for business owners. These would allow for more Americans of any race to pursue the entrepreneurial vision without risking their lives or livelihoods.

Meanwhile, Black Americans have consistently seen unemployment and underemployment rates running double what they are for white Americans. Closing this gap—through robust job and anti-discrimination programs, for example—is equally important to wealth-building as entrepreneurship.

As history shows, words were not enough to end slavery. It took a massive expenditure of national resources—in the form of federal troops—to end the enslavement of Black people.

History also shows that without a sustained deployment of federal resources, the promise of Black freedom and opportunity were quickly dashed against the rocks of racially concentrated power and wealth, leaving African Americans vulnerable in a racially segregated society. And today, like then, there's huge division among states when it comes to racial justice.

Real equality, in short, requires a sustained federal response.

A year since the nation's "racial reckoning" following the death of George Floyd, and 100 years since the massacre in Tulsa, our nation has still failed to even promise the type of repair—much less deliver the investments necessary—to bridge the centuries-old racial inequality that's maintained through economic inequality.






But that doesn't mean we can't.

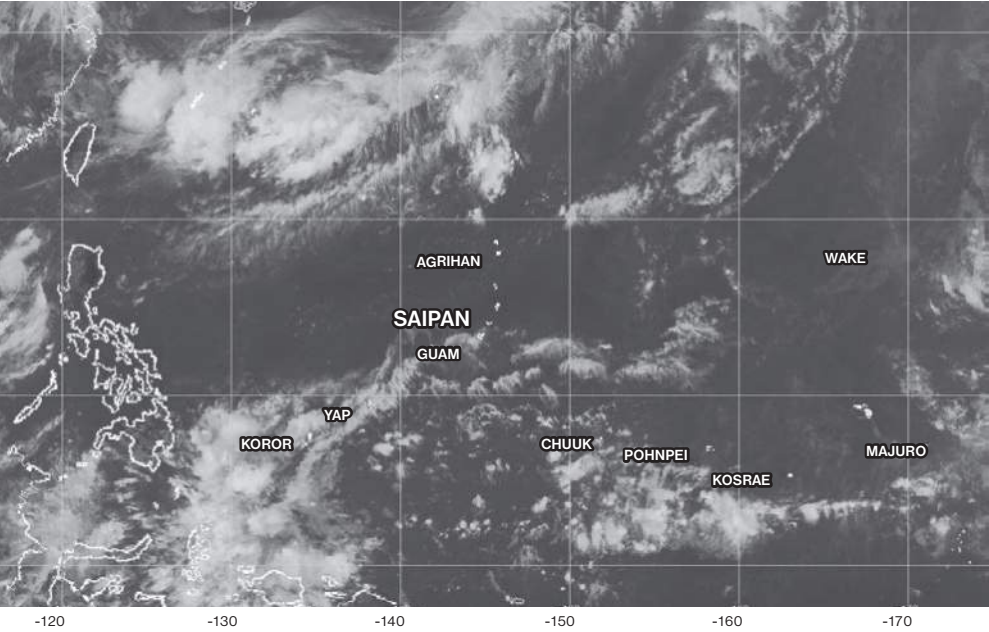
As we celebrate Juneteenth this year, the promise of freedom alone isn't enough to move us forward. Instead, we need to celebrate it every year with sustained action and investment to repair the inequality that even a general and his troops 150 years ago were not able to deliver.

"adverse administrative action" by the commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. David Berger. "This action typically prevents an officer from being promoted or serving in a role where he/she would be charged with the responsibility of caring for Marines and sailors," a spokesperson told The Washington Post.

That punishment seems appropriate. Safety concerns at Camp Pendleton have existed for years. Before he died in a 2019 training accident, Marine First Lt. Conor McDowell complained to his fiancée about the poor condition of the equipment he was required to use. Nine people might still be alive if Regner, Bronzi and Castellvi had better heeded concerns and trained those who trusted them.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180. Gentle trades continue across the Marianas this morning, along with partly cloudy skies and isolated showers. Seas remain low, running around 2 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	90 81 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Yap	Partly cloudy	87 73 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 82 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:36 AM	10:47 PM	-
Wednesday	10:31 AM	11:30 PM	-
Thursday	11:25 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:11 AM	12:19 PM
Saturday	-	12:51 AM	1:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	62 53 °F	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	88 76 °F	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86 82 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	85 73 °F	
London	Cloudy	72 54 °F	
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	72 58 °F	
Manila	Partly cloudy	88 78 °F	
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	58 43 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
New York	Mostly sunny	96 71 °F	
Osaka	Sunny	79 60 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	77 57 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	79 59 °F	
Rome	Mostly sunny	79 59 °F	
Salem	Overcast	65 50 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	64 51 °F	
Seoul	Partly cloudy	77 58 °F	
Tokyo	Showers	70 63 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	96 74 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:25 AM	High Tide	1.49	
9:30 AM	Low Tide	1.83	
5:07 PM	High Tide	0.01	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

Business

Jhen's Sweet Corner: From hobby to business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

"Live, love, cakes."
That might as well be the motto of entrepreneurial

couple Jerome and Jennifer Ortiz when they opened Jhen's Sweet Corner in April this year.

Jennifer said she and her husband, Jerome, really had no plans to put up a business

and that Jhen's Sweet Corner was borne out of her hobby and passion project.

"I started out it as a hobby when I began making my kids' birthday cakes. Then they noticed my work and

it took off from there," she said. Jerome works full time in the information technology department of the Northern Marianas College while Jennifer fancies herself simply as a cake artist.

The Ortizes have five children—Kyle, 20; Jared, 12; J.T., 9; Kian, 6; and Kaden, 1—so you could imagine their savings on birthday cakes even before they put up Jhen's Sweet Corner.

For more information or for orders, call 286-2733

You can't miss Jhen's Sweet Corner when you're driving by Chalan Monsignor Road in Lower Dandan as the shop is bright pink and is in front of New Century Apartment and across the Joeten commercial building.

Jennifer said Jhen's Sweet

Corner is not your garden variety bakeshop as there's a lot of thought and creativity involved in everything they make.

"We sell custom cakes, cupcakes, French macarons, and other desserts. Our cakes and desserts have been specially made out of our love and passion for baking with

a mix of artistry. The right sweetness and awesome designs that we bring

in all our products make us unique from the others," said Jennifer.

She said like all businesses, Jhen's Sweet Corner had its birth pains when it started, especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, Jennifer said op-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jhen's Sweet Corner is located along Chalan Monsignor Road in Lower Dandan in front of New Century Apartment and across the Joeten commercial building.

erations have recently turned the corner. "Businesses [are] slowly going back again to normal and we want to take that opportunity. Staying afloat during COVID-19 pandemic requires new approaches. We found ways to survive during this pandemic through social media, and we have quickly adapted our business operation since we started our business online," Jennifer added.

So far, Jhen's Sweet Corner's bestsellers are its custom cakes, which come in all flavors, shapes, and sizes and range from the simple to ornate, depending on the wishes of their customers.

"We would like to thank all our customers who continuously patronize our cakes and believe in our craft. We promise to continue making more delicious and beautiful custom cakes!" said Jennifer.

Jhen's Sweet Corner is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 1pm-8pm, and Sunday, 1pm-7pm. It is closed on Monday. For more information or for orders, call 286-2733 or message them through their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Jhenssweetcorner>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jhen's Sweet Corner's vanilla-flavored drip cake is decorated with French macarons.

Judge tosses hospital workers' vaccine requirement challenge

HOUSTON (AP)—A federal judge threw out a lawsuit filed by employees of a Houston hospital system over its requirement that all of its staff be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Houston Methodist Hospital system suspended 178 employees without pay last week over their refusal to get vaccinated. Of them, 117 sued seeking to overturn the requirement and over their suspension and threatened termination.

In a scathing ruling Saturday, U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes of Houston deemed lead plaintiff Jennifer Bridges' contention that the vaccines are "experimental and dangerous" to be false and otherwise irrelevant. He also found that her likening the vaccination requirement to the Nazis' forced medical experimentation on concentration camp captives during the Holo-

caust to be "reprehensible."

Hughes also ruled that making vaccinations a condition of employment was not coercion, as Bridges contended.

"Bridges can freely choose to accept or refuse a COVID-19 vaccine; however, if she refuses, she will simply need to work somewhere else. If a worker refuses an assignment, changed office, earlier start time, or other directive, he may be properly fired. Every employment includes limits on the worker's behavior in exchange for remuneration. That is all part of the bargain," Hughes concluded.

Jared Woodfill, a Houston lawyer representing Bridges and the other clients, promised an appeal.

"All of my clients continue to be committed to fighting this unjust policy," Woodfill said in a statement. "What is shocking is that many of my clients were on the front

line treating COVID-positive patients at Texas Methodist Hospital during the height of the pandemic. As a result, many of them contracted COVID-19. As a thank you for their service and sacrifice, Methodist Hospital awards them a pink slip and sentences them to bankruptcy."

Employees had a June 7 deadline to complete their immunization.

In a Tuesday memo, the hospital system's CEO, Marc Boom, said that 24,947 employees had complied with the vaccination requirement and that 27 of the 178 others had received the first of a two-dose vaccine and wouldn't be fired if they got their second. The rest are subject to termination.

He also wrote that 285 other employees received medical or religious exemptions, and 332 were deferred because they were pregnant or for some other reason.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jhen's Sweet Corner cake artist and namesake Jennifer Ortiz poses with some of her creations.

Lebanon's currency reaches new low as crisis deepens

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon's currency hit a new low on Sunday, as the country's economic and political crisis worsened with no apparent solutions in the near future.

The currency has lost more than 90% of its value since October 2019, when anti-government protests erupted. Inflation and prices of basic goods have skyrocketed in the country, which imports more than 80% of its basic goods.

The U.S. dollar hit 15,300 Lebanese pounds on the black market, a level not seen since March. The official rate still stands at 1,515 pounds to the dollar.

The latest crash comes as the tiny country suffers severe shortages of vital products including fuel and medicine. Electricity cuts last for much of the day and private generator owners have warned they cannot cover the supply deficit of the state-owned power company.

Political disagreements between President Michel Aoun and Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri have delayed the formation of a new government. Hariri was chosen for the post in October.

The government of Prime Minister Hassan Diab resigned days after an Aug. 4

blast at Beirut's port that killed 211, wounded more than 6,000 and damaged nearby neighborhoods.

In March 2020, Lebanon defaulted on paying back its debt for the first time in its history.

The crisis is rooted in decades of corruption and mismanagement by the ruling class that has been running Lebanon since 1990 when a 15-year civil war ended.

The World Bank said earlier this month that Lebanon's economic and financial crisis is likely to rank as one of the worst the world has seen in more than 150 years.

Nation

AP source: Justice Dept secretly subpoenaed McGahn's records

WASHINGTON (AP)—Apple informed former Trump White House counsel Don McGahn and his wife that the Justice Department had subpoenaed information about accounts belonging to them in 2018, a person familiar with the matter said Sunday, days after two House lawmakers disclosed they, too, had their information secretly subpoenaed.

It's not clear yet why the Trump administration sought the McGahns' records. But the others were part of a leak probe related to the investigation of Russian-related election interference. The extraordinary disclosure that the Justice Department sought records of a sitting White House counsel and others, which was first reported by the New York Times, raises questions about how far the Trump administration was willing to go to ferret out who it thought might be responsible for damaging information about the administration.

Separately on Sunday, the



Senate's top Democrat called on the Justice Department's chief national security official—a Trump appointee who has remained in the Biden administration—to testify under oath voluntarily or face a subpoena to answer questions about secretly seizing the phone data from House Demo-

crats and reporters as part of the aggressive investigations into leaks.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said it is "imperative" the Senate Judiciary Committee issue a subpoena to John Demers, the assistant attorney general for national security, in addition to

former attorneys general Bill Barr and Jeff Sessions, if they refuse to appear voluntarily.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on Sunday also called on Barr, Sessions as well as Rod Rosenstein, the no. 2 Justice official at the time, to testify under oath in the House about what they knew. She

AP
Former White House counsel Don McGahn departs after appearing for questioning behind closed doors by the House Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, June 4, 2021.

declined to say whether she would push for subpoenas if they refused to appear.

"The Justice Department has been rogue under President Trump, understand that, in so many respects," Pelosi told CNN's "State of the Union." "This is just another manifestation of their rogue activity."

Schumer and Pelosi's demands come days after news emerged that the Justice Department had secretly subpoenaed Apple for metadata from House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff and another Democratic member of the panel, California Rep. Eric Swalwell, in 2018, as their committee was investigating the former president's ties to Russia. Schiff at the time was

the top Democrat on the panel, which was led by Republicans.

Demers has been in charge of the department's national security division since February 2018, being sworn in a few weeks after the subpoena was issued to Apple for the Democrats' records, and his division has played a role in each of the leak investigations. Schumer called on Senate Republicans to join in a demand to issue the subpoenas.

"This was nothing less than a gross abuse of power," Schumer said of the seized records. "I don't think we've ever had a record of this in the past. ... This is about separation of powers."

President Joe Biden has nominated Matt Olsen, an executive at Uber who has experience in the Justice Department and served as director of the National Counterterrorism Center and as general counsel for the National Security Agency, to be the next assistant attorney general for national security.

As COVID-19 cases wane, vaccine-lagging areas still see risk

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—New COVID-19 cases are declining across most of the country, even in some states with vaccine-hesitant populations. But almost all states bucking that trend have lower-than-average vaccination rates, and experts warn that relief from the pandemic could be fleeting in regions where few people get inoculated.

Case totals nationally have declined in a week from a seven-day average of nearly 21,000 on May 29 to 14,315 on Saturday, according to data

from Johns Hopkins University. For weeks, states and cities have been dropping virus restrictions and mask mandates, even indoors.

Experts said some states are seeing increased immunity because there were high rates of natural spread of the disease, which has so far killed nearly 600,000 Americans.

"We certainly are getting some population benefit from our previous cases, but we paid for it," said Mississippi State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs. "We paid for

it with deaths."

More than 7,300 Mississippians have died in the pandemic, and the state has the sixth-highest per capita death rate.

Dobbs estimated that about 60% of the state's residents have "some underlying immunity."

"So we're now sort of seeing that effect, most likely, because we have a combination of natural and vaccine-induced immunity," Dobbs said.

Just eight states—Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah and Wyoming—have seen their

seven-day rolling averages for infection rates rise from two weeks earlier, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. All of them except Hawaii have recorded vaccination rates that are lower than the US average of 43% fully vaccinated, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 10 states with the fewest new cases per capita over that time frame all have fully vaccinated rates above the national average.

Medical experts said a host

of factors is playing into the drop in case counts across the country, including vaccines, natural immunity from exposure to the virus, warmer weather and people spending less time indoors.

But Dr. Leana Wen, a public health professor at George Washington University, said she is concerned that the natural immunity of those who have been exposed to coronavirus may soon wane. And she's worried that states with low vaccination rates could become hot spots.

Schools across US brace for surge of kindergartners in fall

School districts across the United States are hiring additional teachers in anticipation of what will be one of the largest kindergarten classes ever as enrollment rebounds following the coronavirus pandemic.

As they await the arrival next fall of students who sat out the current school year, educators are also bracing for many students to be less prepared than usual due to lower preschool attendance rates.

"The job of the kindergarten teacher just got a lot harder," said Steven Barnett, senior co-director of the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University. He coauthored a report that found that the number of 4-year-olds participating in preschool fell from 71% before the pandemic to 54% dur-

ing the pandemic, with poor children much less likely to attend in-person.

Kindergarten is not required in most states, and in normal times, parents sometimes "red-shirt" children who would be young for their kindergarten class to give them an extra year of developmental readiness. This year, even children nowhere near the cutoff age were held out of school because of health concerns and the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Among them was the daughter of Christina Neu, who held her back even though her daughter has a December birthday and already would be relatively old for her class because the entry cutoff is the end of August. Across Kansas, kindergarten enrollment fell by nearly 9%.



AP
In this May 18, 2021, file photo, kindergarten students wear masks and are separated by plexiglass during a math lesson at the Milton Elementary School, in Rye, N.Y.

"There was a little bit of fear, not wanting her to have to deal with kind of an unknown there," Neu said, adding that her eldest daughter, who is 8, had just been diagnosed before the pandemic with 26

different food allergies and her immune system already was in overdrive. "We wanted to make sure that as a family we were being smart and being safe."

Neu, who works in retail

in Wichita, Kansas, cooked with her daughters, bought educational workbooks and played educational games with them. She said she has no regrets but is apprehensive about the burden facing kindergarten teachers.

"I would be really concerned about stress and just the teacher getting everything done with a big class," she said.

With large amounts of federal relief money available, school districts are taking a range of approaches to prepare.

In Orange County, Florida, there are estimates that the incoming kindergarten class will be 17% bigger than in fall 2020 and officials are planning a 5 1/2 week transition program this summer at some of its neediest schools.

Man, 25, dies after downtown Austin shooting that wounded 14

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A man has died from his injuries following a mass shooting on a crowded downtown Austin street that left more than a dozen people injured, police said Sunday.

Douglas John Kantor, 25, who was hospitalized with critical gunshot wounds following the early Saturday morning shooting, died Sunday at 12:01 p.m., the Austin Police Department said in a news release that also was confirmed by Lt. Brian Moon.

Interim Police Chief Joseph Chacon said the shooting happened around 1:30 a.m. Saturday on a street packed with bars and barricaded off from vehicle traffic. He said investigators believe the shooting began as a dispute between two parties.

Chacon said at least one suspect was arrested. The department provided no other details other than to say it is continuing to follow up on leads for a second suspect who is still at large. An investigation is ongoing.

The mass shooting—one of at least three in the U.S. overnight Saturday—sparked panic along 6th Street, a popular nightlife destination in the city that's home to the University of Texas.

Asia

NATO's leaders bid adieu to Afghanistan at summit

BRUSSELS (AP)—U.S. President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts will bid a symbolic farewell to Afghanistan on Monday in their last summit before America winds up its longest “forever war” and the U.S. military pulls out for good.

The meeting is bound to renew questions about whether NATO's most ambitious operation ever was worth it.

The 18-year effort cost the United States alone \$2.26 trillion, and the price in lives includes 2,442 American troops and 1,144 personnel among U.S. allies, according to figures from Brown University. NATO does not keep a record of those who die in its operations.

Those casualty figures dwarf Afghan losses, which

include more than 47,000 civilians, up to 69,000 members of the national armed forces and police, and over 51,000 opposition fighters.

The military effort followed the 2001 arrival of a U.S.-led coalition that ousted the Taliban for harboring al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Few experts argue that it brought long-term stability, meaningful democracy or security.

“At this point, you get the impression that NATO leaders almost want to downplay and leave quietly, rather than making too big a deal of it, and going on to focus on other business,” said Erik Brattberg, director of the Europe Program at the Carnegie Endowment for Interna-

tional Peace.

With the U.S. leading the withdrawal, European allies and Canada want to hear Biden's thinking about how security will be assured at their embassies, along major transport routes and above all at Kabul's airport.

Many wonder whether the Afghan government can survive a resurgent Taliban. Some think Kabul's capitulation is only a matter of time.

“We are currently in intense discussions with our member states, the United States, NATO and the United Nations on the absence of essential security conditions for our continued diplomatic presence. It will be difficult to keep it” in place, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

Four Philippine militants killed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops killed four Abu Sayyaf militants in a gun battle Sunday in the country's south, including a commander blamed for beheadings and a suspected would-be suicide bomber, military officials said.

Army troops backed by police were to serve a warrant for the arrest of Injam Yadah at his home after midnight in Alat village in Jolo town in Sulu province, when he and his men opened fire. That sparked a gunbattle that killed the militants, said regional military commander Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan, Jr.

Yadah had been accused by the military of involvement in the kidnappings for ransom of Filipinos and foreigners, including eight Indonesian fish-

ermen who were abducted at sea off Malaysia in early 2020 and brought to the southern Philippines.

Three of the Indonesians were freed, one was shot and killed while attempting to escape and four were rescued by Filipino troops in March.

“He had a reputation for being extremely violent, beheading captured innocent civilians and security forces alike,” a military commander, Maj. Gen. William Gonzales, said of Yadah.

Yadah had also been linked to the 2015 kidnappings of four people, including two Canadian tourists. The Canadians were separately beheaded by their Abu Sayyaf captors, including Mujir Yadah, a brother of Injam, after a deadline for

ransom payment lapsed, a military officer said.

Another Abu Sayyaf militant killed in Sunday's firefight was al-Al Sawadjaan, a bomb-maker and would-be suicide bomber, according to Lt. Col. Wilfredo Borgonia, an army infantry battalion commander.

Troops seized a rifle, a pistol, bomb parts and 15 cellphones. They also took into custody Yadah's wife and three children, the military said in a statement, adding the children were “rescued.”

Sawadjaan was a younger brother of Abu Sayyaf commander Mundi Sawadjaan, the main suspect in a number of deadly suicide attacks in recent years in Sulu, a predominantly Muslim province where the militants have been the target of yearslong military offensives.

Afghan IS group claims sticky bomb attacks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for bombing two minivans in a mostly Shiite neighborhood in the Afghan capital that killed seven people. Among the dead were two employees of Afghanistan's state-run film company, a colleague said Sunday.

In a statement issued late Saturday, Afghanistan's IS affiliate said its operatives blew up two minivans carrying “disbeliever Shiites” using sticky bombs. Sticky bombs slapped onto cars trapped in Kabul's chaotic traffic are the newest weapons terrorizing Afghans in the increasingly lawless nation.

Film director Sahra Karimi

in a tweet Sunday said Fatima Mohammadi and Tayiba Musavi, who worked for the Afghan Film Organization, were among the six killed in the first attack. Their families identified their burned bodies in the forensic hospital of Kabul, she said.

Karimi said Mohammadi and Musavi were animators working on an animated film for children and they were returning home when they were attacked.

The Saturday attacks targeted minivans on the same road about 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) apart in a neighborhood in western Kabul. The second bombing took place in front of Muhammad Ali Jinnah hospital, where a majority of CO-

VID-19 patients are admitted, killing one and wounding four.

In some west Kabul neighborhoods populated mostly by members of the minority Hazara ethnic group, just going out for errands can be dangerous. The Islamic State group has carried out similar bombings in the area, including four attacks on four minivans earlier this month that killed at least 18 people.

Hazaras are mostly Shiite Muslims. Shiites are a minority in mostly Sunni Afghanistan and the IS affiliate has declared war against them.

An attack on a Kabul school on May 8 killed nearly 100 people, all of them members of the Hazara ethnic minority and most of them young girls just leaving class.

World

Israel swears in new coalition, ending Netanyahu's long rule

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's parliament on Sunday narrowly approved a new coalition government, ending the historic 12-year rule of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and sending the polarizing leader into the opposition.

Naftali Bennett, a former ally of Netanyahu turned rival, became prime minister after the 60-59 vote. Promising to try to heal a divided nation, Bennett will preside over a diverse and fragile coalition comprised of eight parties with deep ideological differences.

But the 71-year-old Netanyahu made clear he has no intention of exiting the political stage. “If it is destined for us to be in the opposition, we will do it with our backs straight until we topple this dangerous government and return to lead the country,” he said.

The vote, capping a stormy



Israel's new prime minister Naftali Bennett raises his hand during a Knesset session in Jerusalem Sunday, June 13, 2021.

parliamentary session, ended a two-year cycle of political paralysis in which the country held four deadlocked elections. Those votes focused largely on Netanyahu's divisive rule and his fitness to remain in office while on trial for corruption charges.

To his supporters, Netanyahu is a global statesman uniquely capable of leading the country through its many

security challenges.

But to his critics, he has become a polarizing and autocratic leader who used divide-and-rule tactics to aggravate the many rifts in Israeli society. Those include tensions between Jews and Arabs, and within the Jewish majority between his religious and nationalist base and his more secular and dovish opponents.

Pope demands food aid reach Tigray

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis demanded Sunday that humanitarian aid reach hungry people in the war-torn Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, where Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers are blocking food deliveries and other assistance.

Francis called for an immediate end to the fighting in Tigray, the return of social harmony and for “all food aid and health care assistance to be guaranteed.”

Speaking at his Sunday noon blessing, Francis said he was thinking of the people of Tigray who have been “struck

by a grave humanitarian crisis that has exposed the poorest to famine. Today there is famine! There is hunger!”

The United Nations and aid groups say more than 350,000 people in Tigray face famine and 2 million more are a step away from the worst famine since 2011 in Somalia. Farmers, aid workers and local officials say food has been turned into a weapon of war, with soldiers blocking or stealing food aid.

More than 2 million of Tigray's 6 million people have

already fled, unable to harvest their crops. The war in Tigray started in November, shortly before the harvest season, as an attempt by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to disarm the region's rebellious leaders.

On one side are guerrillas loyal to the ousted and now-fugitive leaders of Tigray. On the other are Ethiopian government troops, allied troops from neighboring Eritrea and militias from Ethiopia's Amhara ethnic group who see themselves as rivals to the Tigrayan guerrillas.

Spain's right wing rejects any pardons for Catalan leaders

MADRID (AP)—Thousands of people called Sunday for Spain's government to resign over its plan to issue pardons to a dozen separatist leaders who were convicted for their roles in a 2017 attempt to carve out an independent Catalan state, the boldest secession push in recent Spanish history.

The demonstration in Madrid was the largest to date against the left-wing coalition government led by Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. It was organized by a civil society group in defense of Spain's unity and held at a central square that has become a symbol for far-right political rallies.

“Where have you seen, my

friends, a government that rewards those who declare themselves enemies of its nation?” Rosa Díez, a former Socialist politician who heads the Union '78 platform, said at the event.

Leaders of the center to far-right opposition to Sánchez joined the protest at Colón Square, which boasts one of the nation's largest national flags.

Sánchez hasn't signed any pardons yet for the political and civil society leaders who in October 2017 pushed ahead with a banned referendum on independence for the northeastern region of Catalonia and then declared independence based on its results. Opponents of Catalan

independence boycotted the vote, which took place amid a violent police crackdown.

But the prime minister has defended the potential pardons as a way to bring Catalans and Spaniards closer together after the divisive prosecutions that put nine of the 12 Catalan leaders behind bars. Hundreds of civil servants and activists have also been prosecuted.

Spain's Supreme Court has opposed the pardons. In a recent non-binding opinion, the court said that the sentences for sedition and other crimes were appropriate, and that the convicted individuals had not shown “the slightest evidence or faintest hint of contrition.”

Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Remember the Nissan Pathfinder? You know, the 2012 model, the one that was a true SUV. Its 310-horsepower V-8 could tow your house down the block if necessary. But that changed for 2013, when it was recast from a rugged rock crawler to a suburban road warrior, exchanging its muddy boots and Carhartt jacket for a pair of loafers and a cardigan sweater. Its styling, once chiseled and rugged, softened like a suburban waistline as it lost its identity. The only path this Pathfinder found was the route to nursery school.

It took nearly a decade, and the ruination of its off-road cred, for sanity to return to Nissan's product planning. The results are apparent on the 2022 Nissan Pathfinder, one that repudiates the previous model developed under the auspices of former Nissan CEO, and current international fugitive, Carlos Ghosn, who did much to ruin Nissan's reputation among auto enthusiasts and Nissan's dealer body alike. That takes talent.

But that was then, and this is now.

Hard-core truck enthusiasts might consider this new Pathfinder a sheep in wolf's clothing, as it still employs a unibody front-wheel-drive crossover platform with its

3.5-liter V-6, rather than using body-on-frame platform with a burly V-8. But the new truck has pitched the abysmal continuously variable transmission for a traditional nine-speed automatic transmission, a welcome change. The all-wheel-drive system carries over from the previous generation, although it now sports updated software to support a terrain response system, so you can adjust the vehicle's capabilities for the road surface. On front-wheel-drive models, it includes standard, sport, eco, snow and tow modes, with towing rated at 3,500 pounds. Choose all-wheel drive, and you'll also get sand and mud/rut modes, and up to 6,000 pound of towing capacity when equipped with the SL Premium Package for \$2,900, or the SV Premium Package for \$2,170. A two-wheel or four-wheel active brake limited slip differential, trailer sway control and hill start assist is standard on all models; hill descent control is standard on all-wheel drive models.

The 2022 Pathfinder produces 284 horsepower and 259 pound-feet of torque through a nine-speed transmission. Power seems adequate for most situations, but more power would be welcome. The transmission could be quicker to downshift when asking for more power, so overtaking other vehicles



NISSAN/TNS
The 2022 Nissan Pathfinder has a 3.5-liter, direct injection V6 engine mated to a new nine-speed automatic transmission.

No longer a mall rat, the 2022 Nissan Pathfinder returns to its roots

can take a little longer than expected. Switching to sport mode quickened the steering and throttle response, but the shift mapping doesn't change, so shifting for yourself using the steering-wheel-mounted paddle shifters is the best option when you need additional power, although shifting speed isn't noticeably quicker. Steering is light on center, but nicely weighted. Body lean comes on gradually in corners, and bumps are noticeable but do not filter through to the driver's seat.

The retuned suspension is compliant enough for off-road work, but its orientation for pavement over the forest primeval can be felt once the concrete ends. Its wide turning radius, typical of front-wheel-drive, V-6-powered Nissans, can be cumbersome off-road. Once past pavement, you'll

find this is able to handle light off-roading, enough to get to your campsite or favorite spot, as long as it doesn't require serious boulder bashing. Throughout it all, the cabin remains quiet, and road noise is well-suppressed.

Visibility is good, except directly rear, where a sea of headrests blocks your view unless you lower them. Seats are comfortable, and second row legroom and headroom are impressive. Third row leg room is tighter unless you slide the second row forward, but hip room is impressive, with enough space for three ordinary-sized adults. Access is easier than most, thanks to it's a button that folds the second-row seat forward at the touch of a button. Thoughtfully, the second row Captain's chairs are separated by con-

sole that's easily removeable with one hand.

The inside story is as good as the rest of it, with a nicely trimmed cabin and a pleather-padded instrument panel with stitching. The overall theme is similar to the one used in the new Nissan Sentra, with controls that are clear and easy to understand. Kudos to Nissan for finally using a solitary infotainment screen, with a row of physical buttons beneath it to access options quickly, such as maps, audio, etc.

There's a lot of storage, including wireless charging pad with USB A&C ports, and the center console not only has a storage bin but also space underneath the center console's electronic transmission shifter

for a purse or messenger bag.

If there's one thing about the new 2022 Pathfinder that is truly a return to form, it's the exterior design, which not only recalls earlier Pathfinders, but incorporates design cues from current Nissan trucks. Square-shouldered, handsome and sporting a black roof, its appearance is sure to draw far more buyers than the previous iteration, especially from those who remember earlier Pathfinder generations.

It's a worthy first step in the redemption of the Pathfinder, a vehicle that's been lost in the wilderness of mall parking lots for far too long. It may not be the hardcore 4x4 it once was, but it's returning to the path its longtime enthusiasts prefer.

NUTS & BOLTS

2022 Nissan Pathfinder

- Base price/as tested: \$34,560/\$45,795
- Engine: 3.5-liter DOHC V6
- Horsepower/Torque: 284/259 pound-feet of torque
- EPA fuel economy (combined): 23 mpg
- Length/Width/Height: 114.2/197.7/77.9 inches
- Ground clearance: 7.1 inches
- Cargo capacity: 16.6-80.5 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 3,500-6,000 pounds

Motormouth: Blinded by the light

Q: In response to the reader who complained about sun blindness, I use something called Battle Visors when the sun is low, and they really help. Forget what I paid, but I think around \$10.

A: I searched the Web and found that product, which got mixed reviews. While surfing, I also found a slew of other products. To paraphrase an old motto, let your mouse do the walking.

Q: A road rallying friend taped the tops of his sunglasses. He could block the sun right down to the horizon, and better than a visor. It was instantly adjustable with a tilt of his chin.

A: Interesting idea. I tried it on a pair of cheap sunglasses using blue painter's tape. It

works. The downside is the inability to see well enough down the road. I advise against Scotch tape.

Q: Several years ago, while driving from the west side of the Las Vegas valley to my office a couple miles east of the Strip, the morning sun would be right in my eyes. One day I came up with (what I thought) was a brilliant idea. Build the shade/tint mechanism into the windshield. A sensor determines the height of the driver's eyes and where the visor needs to appear to block the sun. So, no matter who is driving or which direction they are going, the tinted area automatically appears where and when it is needed.

A: That is a brilliant idea.

Read on.

Q: When reading Motormouth today I saw a question from a reader who was looking for an improved sun visor. I happen to work for Bosch and know that the Bosch Mobility Solutions has developed a potential solution that integrates a transparent LCD visor with a driver-monitoring camera. The LCD visor blocks the sunlight from the driver's field of view while still allowing the driver to see the road ahead through the portion of the LCD surface that remains transparent. Bosch is currently testing this solution in Michigan, and you can find out more about it here: bosch-mobility-solutions.us

A: It looks way cool, possibly brilliant, and I want it.

Q: I have a 2006 Hyundai Elantra that has 81,000 miles and runs great. The problem is, it has rust on the bottom on each side of the car plus a few holes. Can this problem be fixed and is it worth getting fix?

A: The bottoms you refer to are called the rocker panels. The rust is quite common on Elantras and even if repaired, usually returns. It can be fixed, temporarily, but probably not worth it.

Q: Way back in the '70s, a friend had a Monte Carlo with front seats that rotated. To facilitate entry/exit, the seats swiveled with the touch of a lever. I am surprised that I've not seen that

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

innovative and convenient feature before or since. Do any manufacturers offer that swiveling seat nowadays, or was that also declared "Unsafe at Any Speed"?

A: Several GM cars of the 1970s offered swivel seats and Chrysler offered them in the 1960s. As a factory option they may have gone away, but aftermarket swivel seats are

available. They range from a simple swivel placed on the car's seat up to motorized units that can extend out from the car and even lower once deployed. Several carmakers are once again considering swivel seats and have shown concept cars with them. By the way, Ralph Nader has a new book, "The Ralph Nader and Family Cookbook."

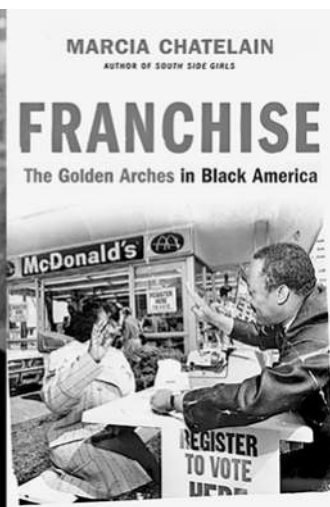
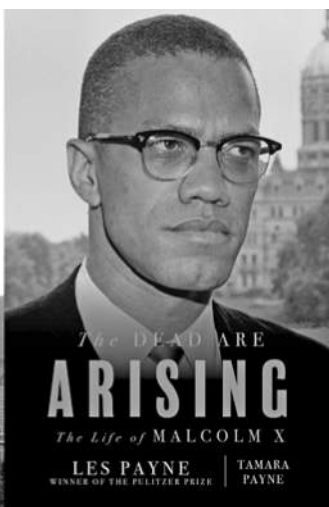
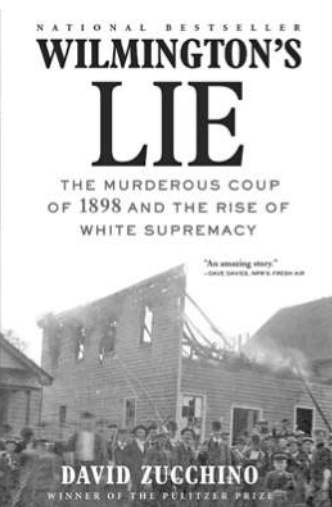
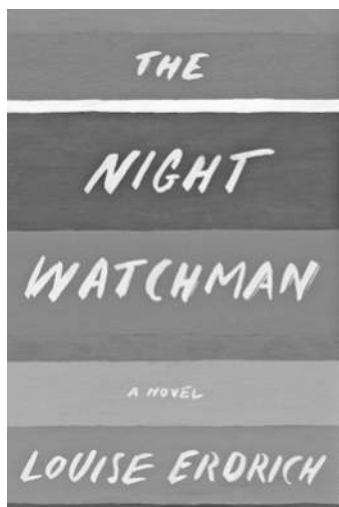
Life & Style

'The Night Watchman,' Malcolm X biography win arts Pulitzers

NEW YORK (AP)—Stories of race, racism and colonialism in the U.S. swept the Pulitzer Prizes for the arts, from Louise Erdrich's novel "The Night Watchman" to a Malcolm X biography co-written by the late Les Payne to Katori Hall's play "The Hot Wing King."

The awards were announced Friday during a remote ceremony that honored the best work in journalism and the arts in 2020, a year defined in part by the police killing of George Floyd and the protests and reckoning which followed. The news also comes amid an intensifying debate over race and education, with legislators in Texas and elsewhere seeking to restrict the teaching of racial injustice.

"What the Pulitzers are awarding this year seems so timely," Tamara Payne, Les Payne's daughter and the principal researcher for his book, told



This combination of photos shows, from left, "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, "Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy" by David Zucchino, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction, "The Dead Are Arising" co-authored by Tamara Payne and her father Les Payne, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for biography and "Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America" by Marcia Chatelain, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for history.

The Associated Press. "All of these voices are so important and always have been important."

Marcia Chatelain, whose "Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America" won for

history, said that she felt honored to be among a group of writers who have "tried to find a way to make clear that writing about race is fundamental to understanding what we need

as a society."

Erdrich, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, has drawn upon her background and blended the traditions of oral and writ-

ten storytelling for such acclaimed novels as "The Round House" and "The Plague of Doves." She based "The Night Watchman" on the life of her maternal grandfather, a night

watchman whose reservation in rural North Dakota was threatened in the 1950s by congressional legislation.

"This story belongs to him and to the Turtle Mountain people. It is very moving, this is very moving recognition," said Erdrich, who runs an independent bookstore in Minneapolis, where Floyd was killed in May 2020. She called the Pulitzer a welcome contrast to the news of the past year.

"I love this city and it hurts to know how deep the racism goes. It's something indigenous people also know about well. It's been a painful time."

Pulitzer judges called Erdrich's novel "a majestic, polyphonic novel about a community's efforts to halt the proposed displacement and elimination of several Native American tribes in the 1950s, rendered with dexterity and imagination."

Dutch princess won't accept payment when she turns 18

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The heir to the Dutch throne, Princess Amalia, has decided for the next few years not to accept the allowance—worth some 1.6 million euros (\$1.9 million) per year—that she is entitled to receive annually once she turns 18 in December.

The princess sent a handwritten letter to Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte informing him of her decision on Friday. She said she would repay the money—which will still be deposited in her account—while she is still a student.

The payment is made up of about 300,000 euros directly to the princess and 1.3 mil-

lion to cover staff costs and other expenses.

The princess heard Thursday that she had passed all her high school final exams and now is planning to take a gap year before going to university.

"I find it uncomfortable as long as I can offer little in return and other students have it so much more difficult, especially in these uncertain corona times," the princess wrote.

Rutte wrote back to congratulate Amalia on graduating high school and said he understood and appreciated her decision.

The move comes at a time of declining popularity for the House of Orange in the Netherlands.

Amalia's parents, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima, came in for harsh criticism last year when they took the family on vacation to their holiday home in Greece amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The family cut short the trip and hurried home after a public outcry at the vacation.

In a video message issued after their return in October last year, a somber Willem-Alexander told the nation: "It hurts to have betrayed your faith in us."

The vacation did not breach coronavirus restrictions, but came just days after the Dutch government introduced what it called a "partial lockdown" in a bid to rein in soaring infections.

The unanswered 'Jeopardy!' question: Who's the new host?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Jeopardy!" needed a host, and Lucille Ball had an enthusiastic suggestion for creator Merv Griffin: The smooth-voiced, debonair emcee of the "High Rollers" game show.

That was 1984. Decades later, filling the void left by the late Alex Trebek involves sophisticated research and a parade of guest hosts doing their best to impress viewers and the studio that's expected to make the call before the new season begins taping later this summer.

Think of Sony Pictures Television as clutching the rose, and Mayim Bialik, Anderson Cooper, Katie Couric

and "Jeopardy!" champs Ken Jennings and Buzzy Cohen among the suitors so far, with more to come including Robin Roberts, Dr. Sanjay Gupta and LeVar Burton.

Sony has "the most robust team of people I have ever seen looking at this and analyzing it in a very cerebral way," said executive producer Mike Richards. "It's a real change from the way casting has traditionally been done on television."

"It's usually been a gut instinct of the head executive: 'How about that person?'" Richards said.

That was producer-entertainer Griffin's approach

when he brought a syndicated version of "Jeopardy!" to TV, five years after the quiz show's last network iteration wrapped in 1979 on NBC. A word from Ball, of "I Love Lucy" fame, and Trebek's skill and experience sealed his hire.

Audience and critical regard for the Canadian-born Trebek grew over the years, which makes finding a worthy replacement both a gesture of respect for the late host and the means to protect a corporate asset. While ratings have shifted under the guest hosts, "Jeopardy!" remains among the top-ranked syndicated programs in viewership.

Wife devastated to learn of husband's prior conquests

DEAR ABBY: I met my husband on the job when we were one year out of school. We are both 36. We dated for three years and were compatible in every way. Ten years later, we have two kids (7 and 5), own a home and are financially secure.

When we dated, we discussed our "history," and he told me that he'd had five prior girlfriends. I had three boyfriends in college. Well, I learned a few months ago—at his reunion—that he completely "forgot" the part about his competitive frat-boy past with hook-ups and one-night stands. He now estimates that he was with over 50 different girls during college, but says it "shouldn't bother me" because it was meaningless sex and in the past. He said he told me "five" because they were the ones he counted as relationships.

Now I see women on his social media who went to the same school and I obsess about how they fit into his past. It's driving me crazy, and I feel like just a number now. I know if this situation were reversed, he'd flip out about it.

I wish I had never found this out because I see him differently now, and no longer want to be close to him. He's a good father and husband, but I'm struggling with how to accept this new information, and I need some guidance.

WISH I DIDN'T KNOW

DEAR WISH: People usually lie because they aren't

proud of the truth. You say he has been a good husband and father. This is why you need to find it in your heart to forgive him. If you have caught him in lies since then, you have a reason to be reacting the way you have. However, if you haven't, please consider talking with a licensed marriage and family therapist until you have worked it through. The resentment you feel could destroy your marriage. Please do not let that happen.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently moved in with my grandmother, partly to help out and partly because I lost my job due to underlying health conditions that made dealing with COVID incredibly difficult. Now that we're close to family again, some of them think they need to dictate what we do. The biggest topic is whether I should try going back to work now.

My husband is adamant that he wants me home until it's safer for me to go out again, but my father thinks it's not a good idea, and insists that my husband doesn't understand "everything." I don't want to make either of them angry, but I feel like I need to stick with my husband, and I don't know how to get my father to understand because he's stubborn. Any advice?

TORN, AND TIRED OF IT

DEAR TORN: Your husband is protective, and for that

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I applaud him. If you can't work because an underlying health condition makes you more vulnerable to COVID, then as much as your father would like you out of the house and working during the day, you cannot do it. Your life could be at risk. What does your doctor have to say about this?

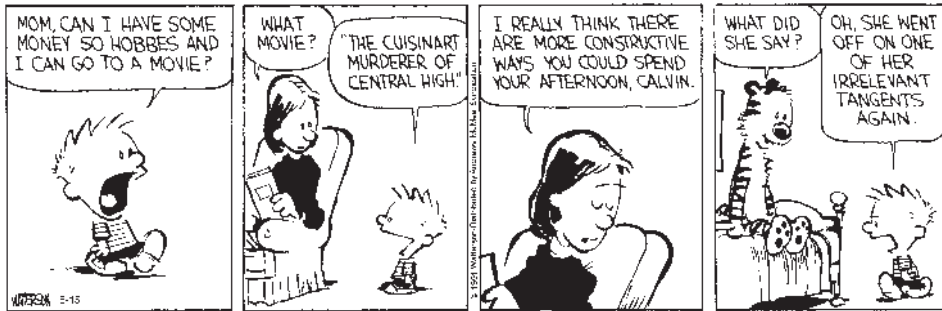
You are no longer a little girl. It's time for a family discussion to iron this out, including what your father meant when he said your husband doesn't "understand." If it can't be resolved in a mature and respectful manner, you and your husband may need to make other living arrangements.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Openings
5 Coloring agent
8 Waikiki's island
12 Downwind
13 British ref. work
14 Ocho —, Jamaica
15 Turkish currency
16 City on Lake Geneva
18 Use a washer
20 Out-and-out
21 Scoundrel
22 "Gigli" actress, to fans
23 Like some communities
26 Designer Yves Saint —
30 Blunder
31 Taxi
32 Luau
33 Honors
36 Long
38 Mined matter

DOWN

39 Group of whales
40 Singer
43 Chuckled
47 Set in motion
49 Prefix with dynamic
50 Perry's creator
51 "High Society" studio
52 San —, Italy
53 Unique
54 Extinct bird
55 Pesky email

3 Lima's land
4 Spooky gathering
5 Parceled (out)
6 Revolution period
7 Sch. URL ender
8 Speaker
9 "— She Sweet"
10 Sharpen
11 Addict
17 "Star Trek" officer
19 June honoree
22 Poke
23 Solidify
24 Altar constellation
25 Capote nickname

26 Part of UNLV
27 Ecol.
28 Hide-hair insert
29 Stannum
31 Browns, on scoreboards
34 Comic Dangerfield
35 Rocker
36 One of us
37 Mystery writers' awards
39 "Top Chef" host
40 "Pinocchio" fish
41 Knitting fiber
42 Void partner
43 Toy block name
44 Dickens' Uriah
45 Gospel singer
46 Unhappy destiny
48 "Let me think ..."

Solution time: 22 mins.

E	R	R	S	F	A	F	E	D	A	M
T	E	A	I	S	H	-	I	S	A	
N	A	M	P	L	E	W	H	F	F	S
R	I	C	H	F	O	R	D	S	S	T
I	D	O	T	O	R	I	S	E	R	E
B	A	N	S	R	I	S	K	F	R	E
C	U	T	S	P	I	-				
F	E	R	R	E	T	E	N	H	O	B
H	Y	E	F	L	O	J	H	O	L	A
A	R	T	E	U	M	S	O	G	H	E
T	E	E	D	R	A	E	P	A	D	S

Yesterday's answer 6-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Neil Patrick Harris, 48; Ice Cube, 52; Courteney Cox, 57; Helen Hunt, 58.

Happy Birthday: Look for the truth in every situation. Offer understanding, patience and assistance to those in need. The gestures you make this year will help you rise above and beyond any competition you encounter. A subtle change will boost your morale and encourage you to make a positive lifestyle adjustment. The more you do, the more you will get in return. Your numbers are 2, 8, 15, 24, 28, 37, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Observe what's going on around you. Set boundaries with people who crowd your space. Put more thought into how you run your home and what brings you the most joy. Pick up information, additional qualifications and skills that will help you excel. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep life simple, and do your best to get along with those who live with you. Share only the information that is constructive and will help you reach what you set out to accomplish. Don't ignore a chance to use your skills diversely. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look at what you can accomplish and head in that direction. There is no point wasting time on something or someone who offers little in return. Put your energy into something that matters to you, and good things will happen. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do what's necessary. It will be easier to get things done your way and on time if you are

discreet and secretive. A unique approach to a job you do will pay off. Don't cut corners. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be observant, but do not meddle. The changes going on around you will encourage you to take a different approach to how you work and handle your money. A partnership will experience uncertainty if you aren't honest regarding your feelings. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotions will mount if you aren't willing to make adjustments that will keep the peace. Consider the fallout if you decide to be stubborn or unwilling to compromise. Consider the consequences before you show your reluctance. Learn from the experience. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make positive changes to your surroundings. Enjoying the space you create will ensure you accomplish more and maintain a healthy lifestyle. A conversation with someone who shares your sentiments will lead to something special. Help is heading your way. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't fret over the small stuff. Live up to your promises and follow through with your plans. Do what you say and explore the possibilities that unfold. Solve problems with intelligence and the skills you have accumulated along the way. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Avoid people who bring you down or play mind games. Stay focused on what you are trying to achieve, then forge ahead with optimism. Don't let someone you look up to cost you more than you can afford. Budget smartly. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't take on too much or get involved in a joint venture that discourages you from doing things you love to do. Stick close to loved ones, and take better care of your health, wealth and emotional well-being. Avoid over-indulgence. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on doing your very best. Hone your skills. Apply intelligence, experience and intuition to help you excel. Do your own thing, and follow your heart as you move forward. ★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll gravitate toward people who are generous. Don't take chances that can lead to problems with someone close to you. You may desire change, but don't make a move without doing adequate research. Take baby steps. ★★★★★

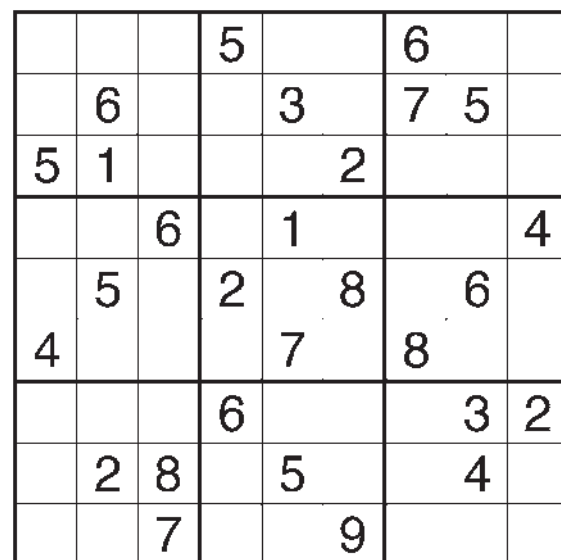
Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, thoughtful and efficient. You are ambitious and unique.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

6/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	6	3	7	4	8	2	5	9
4	2	7	5	9	3	6	8	1
9	8	5	6	2	1	3	4	7
3	4	1	9	8	5	7	6	2
5	9	2	3	7	6	8	1	4
8	7	6	2	1	4	9	3	5
2	3	4	8	5	7	1	9	6
7	1	8	4	6	9	5	2	3
6	5	9	1	3	2	4	7	8

Dist. by King Features

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TRAMPOLINES

Solution: 9 letters

G Y O U T H C I T S A L E E S
A R L Y T S I W T N L M B H T
M C A I P C R L N I A U A E R
E A R V M P B I K R N P C I I
S R T O I A A S F G E N K G N
I D O S B T F H E C A W Y H G
C I A O R A Y E N D O S A T Y
R O C E D A T A S V O T R R T
E G T O L T M M E S H R D A I
X N I P I R U N P G E O S I L
E I V U O L E O O N A N M N I
J B E F L F R L H I E G T E C
U B R O R T U F O R T T O I A
M E R E B O U N D P A R K Y F
P W E H C T E R T S Q U A R E

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6/15

Acrobat, Active, Backyard, Bungee, Cardio, Coil, Dance, Elastic, Entertain, Exercise, Fabric, Facility, Family, Fitness, Fort, Frame, Fun, Gravity, Happy, Height, Home, Hop, Jump, Mats, Mesh, Net, Outdoor, Park, Performance, Play, Pole, Rebound, Roll, Shape, Skill, Sport, Springs, Square, Stretch, String, Strong, Train, Twist, Webbing, Woven, Yoga, Youth

Yesterday's Answer: Kennel

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

MVP Nikola Jokic ejected, Suns sweep Nuggets, 125-118



DENVER (AP)—Chris Paul couldn't miss. Devin Booker couldn't be stopped.

The Phoenix Suns roared into the Western Conference Finals for the first time in 11 years Sunday night with a testy 125-118 victory over Denver that completed a four-game sweep.

The Nuggets? Well, they went down fighting.

Paul scored 37 points and Booker added 34 in a physical game marred by MVP Nikola Jokic's ejection for a flagrant foul in the third quarter.

Jokic was tossed with 3:52 left in the third and his Nuggets trailing 83-76 after his hard right-hand windmill swipe sent the ball flying but also caught Cameron Payne in the face.

Jokic said he meant only to commit a hard foul on Payne to spark his team.

"I wanted to change the rhythm of the game, I wanted to give us some energy," Jokic said. "I tried to make a hard foul. Did I hit him? I didn't know. I say sorry if I did because I didn't want to injure him or hit him in the head on purpose."

Booker took umbrage at the hard foul and got in the big man's face before teammates and coaches pulled everyone apart.

"It was just an emotional play," Booker said. "I don't think he meant harm by it. It was just a frustration foul. It was tough, just defending my teammate. That was it."

"I saw him go up to Cam after and apologize. I've played against the Joker multiple times. I know he's not a malicious player."

Officials assessed a double technical on Jokic and Booker and after a review, ejected the MVP after upgrading his foul to a Flagrant 2. Jokic finished with 22 points and 11 rebounds in 28 minutes.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone said he watched the play while the officials reviewed the call "and I just assumed it would be a Flagrant 1 at the worst."

"I didn't feel like it warranted a Flagrant 2 ejection because he's making a play on the ball," Malone said. "There's marginal contact to Cameron Payne's nose, I believe. So, I was shocked. I'm still a little bit shocked that they called a Flagrant 2 and ejected the MVP on such a play."

Suns coach Monty Williams also was taken aback.

"I didn't really think it was anything malicious," Williams said. "In those moments you have to regulate your emotions. That's what we've been talking about all season long."

"At replay review, we saw wind up, impact and follow through, which lead to unnec-



AP
Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, left, squares off against Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker in the second half of Game 4 of an NBA second-round playoff series Sunday, June 13, 2021, in Denver.

essary and excessive contact above the shoulders and also into the face," crew chief David Guthrie explained.

With their franchise-record seventh straight playoff victory, the Suns advanced to the conference championship for the first time since 2010—the last time they even reached the playoffs.

After knocking out LeBron James and the defending champion Lakers in Round 1, the Suns quickly dispatched Denver and made Jokic the first MVP to get swept in a playoff series since Magic Johnson in 1989.

Will Barton led Denver, which trailed by 13 heading into the fourth quarter, with 25 points, Michael Porter Jr. added 20 and Monte Morris 19.

The Nuggets survived the loss of star Jamal Murray to a torn ACL on April 12, winning 13 of 18 to close out the regular season and taking care of

Portland in five games in the opening round.

They went farther than any of last year's semifinalists, but they sorely missed Murray against the loaded Suns.

"Hopefully we can start next season fresh and healthy as possible to make another run at this thing," Malone said.

Every time the Nuggets made a run, Paul was there to stop it. His 37-point outburst was one more than his age and marked his best production in three years.

"It was a great series for him," Morris said. "Salute to Chris Paul. He played amazing."

"He always had an answer for everything we tried," Facundo Compazzo added.

Booker credited Paul and his veteran leadership for transforming the Suns from an up-and-coming team in the bubble last year to a championship contender this summer.

"You can ask anybody on

this team how has Chris developed your game and everybody's going to have a lengthy answer because he cares," Booker said.

Thanks in large part to Paul, Jokic became the first MVP to get swept in a playoff series since the Pistons downed Magic Johnson and the Lakers in four in the NBA Finals in 1989.

Jokic's ejection came 48 hours after an emotional celebration before Game 3 in which the Serbian dedicated his MVP trophy to his teammates, coaches, trainers and the front office.

The only NBA player to play all 72 games this season, Jokic spent the fourth quarter in his locker room as his teammates' comeback without him fell short.

"We've never been in that position all season with Nikola not being out there," Morris said not long after

fans streamed from the arena chanting "MVP! MVP!"

Bucks 107, Nets 96

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo and Khris Middleton finally are getting a little more help, while Kevin Durant keeps seeing his superstar cohorts get hurt.

And now a second-round playoff series that once looked like a Brooklyn Nets runaway suddenly is up for grabs.

Antetokounmpo scored 34 points and the Bucks rolled to a 107-96 Game 4 victory Sunday to tie the series, while the Nets, lost Kyrie Irving to a sprained right ankle.

The Bucks erased a 2-0 deficit by winning two straight in Milwaukee. Game 5 is Tuesday night at Brooklyn.

"We're very happy, but we've got to keep getting better, keep playing together and hopefully we can go into Brooklyn and take one," Ante-

tokounmpo said.

Brooklyn's immediate concern is the health of its superstar trio.

Irving was hurt midway through the second quarter and didn't return. The Nets already are missing nine-time All-Star and 2018 MVP James Harden, who hasn't played since the opening minute of Game 1 due to right hamstring tightness.

That puts even more pressure on Durant, who has carried the Nets this series and provided 28 points and 13 rebounds Sunday. The only other Net in double figures was Irving, who had 11 points before leaving.

Nets coach Steve Nash said X-rays taken on Irving's ankle were negative and that the seven-time All-Star's status for Game 5 is uncertain at this point.

"We'll have to see how it goes," Nash said. "We'll cross our fingers."

After Irving made a basket in the paint to cut the Bucks' lead to 44-40 midway through the second quarter, his left leg hit the right leg of Antetokounmpo on his way down. Irving landed awkwardly, his ankle rolled and he clutched at it as play briefly continued on the other end of the floor.

When play stopped due to a change of possession, team officials went to check on Irving, who appeared in pain on the floor before walking to the locker room. The Nets announced at halftime that Irving wouldn't return.

The Bucks already had taken the lead for good even before Irving's injury.

They got more balance Sunday after eking out an 86-83 victory in Game 3, when Middleton and Antetokounmpo combined for 68 points, 79% of the Bucks' scoring output. That marked the highest percentage of a team's points that a duo had combined to score in any NBA playoff game ever.

Middleton scored 19 points, Jrue Holiday had 14, P.J. Tucker got 13 and Bryn Forbes added 10 for the Bucks. Holiday had nine assists and Middleton had eight.

"At this stage, it's whatever it takes to win the game," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It certainly helps to get more guys contributing, making shots. P.J. Tucker was phenomenal on both ends of the court."

Lloyd scores quick goal and US women defeat Jamaica 4-0

HOUSTON (AP)—Carli Lloyd scored 24 seconds into the game and the U.S. women's national team went on to defeat Jamaica 4-0 on Sunday night in the Summer Series.

The U.S. women are undefeated in 41 straight matches, the third-longest streak in team history. The team is undefeated in 55 games on American soil.

Lloyd's goal was the fastest for the Americans since Alex Morgan scored in 12 seconds against Costa Rica in a 2016 match.

Lloyd also became the oldest woman—at 38 years, 332 days—to score a goal for the national team. It was Lloyd's 303rd appearance with the team.

"Records are records,

they're always going to be broken," Lloyd said. "For me, it's just about winning games, it's helping the team."

I don't go searching for these records, it's just a good reminder just to know how grateful I am to step out on the field. Nothing has ever been given to me. I've had to earn every single opportunity."

Head coach Vlatko Andonovski made six lineup changes from the 1-0 victory in the Summer Series opener Thursday against Portugal.

Andonovski started Adriana Franch in goal, giving Alyssa Naehar the night off. Midfielder Catarina Macario, who played at Stanford before signing professionally with Lyon, made her fourth

national team appearance.

Andonovski is using the Summer Series matches to decide the final squad for the upcoming Olympics. He will have to cut the roster to just 18 players for Tokyo.

"It is always difficult," he said. "We have a very deep roster, the depth chart is very deep in quality. So regardless of what the number is, it will always be difficult."

Lindsey Horan scored on a penalty kick in the seventh minute. Midge Purce made it 3-0 in the 22nd minute, for her second international goal.

Morgan added a final goal in stoppage time. It was Morgan's 110th goal for the United States.

"The game plan changed in the second half, part of it



Hernández hits 2 of Jays' 8 HRs in 18-4 rout of Red Sox



BOSTON

(AP)—Teoscar Hernández belted a pair of three-run homers over the Green Monster — two of Toronto's eight long-balls — and Marcus Semien extended his road hitting streak to 26 games as the Blue Jays pounded the Boston Red Sox 18-4 on Sunday.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Bo Bichette, Lourdes Gurriel Jr., Cavan Biggio, Rowdy Tellez and Semien also went deep for the Blue Jays, a day after they belted five homers in a 7-2 victory. Guerrero's was his major league-leading 21st.

Toronto's eight homers Sunday were the most allowed by Boston in franchise history.

"It's unbelievable," Hernández said. "I'm hoping it can be like that every day so we can have fun and laugh the whole game."

Bichette had four of Toronto's season-high 20 hits, and Guerrero, Hernández and Gurriel each had three. The Jays also reached a season high for runs.

"Honestly, I don't know," winning pitcher Robbie Ray said, when asked what he'd do if he was facing Toronto's lineup. "Maybe try to make them hit the ball right at somebody. The way that we were swinging it today was really impressive."

Xander Bogaerts and Bobby Dalbec homered for Boston, which captured the series opener before Toronto's power surge.

Semien's club-record streak is the majors' longest since Dexter Fowler hit safely in 27 straight road games for the Cubs from September 2015 to May 2016.

Toronto hit five homers in two straight games for the third time in team history, also in 2020 and 2017.

Ray (4-2) struck out 10 over six innings, giving up three runs, four hits and three walks.

The Blue Jays grabbed a 4-0 lead in the first against Martín Pérez on Hernández's three-run homer and a solo shot from Gurriel.

Semien's drive into the batter's eye in center made it 5-0 in the second, prompting loud boos from the Fenway Park crowd. Those quickly turned to mock cheers when Red Sox manager Alex Cora came out to pull Pérez after the next batter, Bichette, singled.

"We need to do a better job, that's the bottom line," Cora said. "It's been a horrible week for us pitching-wise."

Braves 6, Marlins 4

In Miami, Drew Smyly (3-3) allowed two runs over five innings on his 32nd birthday to help Atlanta stop a four-



game slide.

Austin Riley homered and drove in three runs, going 3 for 3 with a walk and getting hit by a pitch. Ender Inciarte also homered for Atlanta, his solo shot coming one inning after replaced Ronald Acuña Jr., who had right pectoral soreness.

Will Smith pitched a perfect ninth for his 12th save.

Miami starter Pablo Lpez (2-4) gave up four runs and six hits in three innings.

Nationals 5, Giants 0

In Washington, Kyle Schwarber became the sixth player in the history of the Washington Nationals and Montreal Expos franchise to homer in both the first and second innings, driving in four runs.

Joe Ross (3-6) allowed five hits in eight innings as the Nationals gained a four-game split.

Schwarber hit his seventh career leadoff homer, his second in as many days, and hit a three-run drive in the second off Johnny Cueto (4-3) for a 4-0 lead.

Josh Harrison had four hits.

Phillies 7, Yankees 0

In Philadelphia, Aaron Nola (5-4) allowed three hits and struck out nine in 7 2/3 innings, and Philadelphia completed a two-game sweep that moved the Phillies back over .500 at 32-31.

Odubel Herrera, Jean Segura and J.T. Realmuto combined to go 7 for 13 with a double, a triple, four runs scored and five RBIs.

Domingo Germán (4-4) fell behind 4-0 by the second inning. The Yankees are 32-21, have lost 13 of 18 and are

fourth, 8 1/2 games behind AL East-leading Tampa Bay for their largest deficit since September 2018.

Reds 6, Rockies 2

In Cincinnati, Eugenio Suárez hit a two-run homer and Cincinnati won for the 10th time in 13 games to move over .500 for the first time since it was 9-8.

Colorado was swept on the road for the fifth time this year, following wipeouts at the Los Angeles Dodgers, San Francisco, San Diego and St. Louis. The Rockies are 13-19 at home but 5-27 on the road, on pace to surpass the 1935 Boston Braves' 13-65 for the worst road record in a season.

Ryan Hendrix (3-1), the first of five relievers, came in and struck out Dom Nuez swinging on a ball in the dirt to get the win.

Antonio Senzatela (2-7) allowed five runs and eight hits in six innings.

Padres 7, Mets 3

In New York, Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a tiebreaking grand slam off Jacob Barnes in the seventh inning, his 19th homer this season, and Manny Machado followed with a home run as San Diego stopped a four-game slide.

Chris Paddack (3-5) struck out nine and allowed two runs and six hits six innings.

Tommy Pham launched a leadoff homer.

Jeury Familia (2-1) forced in the tying run with a four-pitch, bases-loaded walk to Pham.

Mariners 6, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Jake Fraley homered off AL Cy Young

Award winner Shane Bieber (7-4) after replacing Mitch Haniger, who was helped from the field after bruising his left knee when he fouled off a pitch in the first inning.

Fraley completed the at-bat with a strikeout and flied out in the second, but his two-run homer in the fourth pushed Seattle's lead to 5-0. Kyle Seager hit a solo homer in the third off Bieber, who gave up five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Logan Gilbert (2-2) allowed one run and four hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Rays 7, Orioles 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Randy Arozarena hit his first career grand slam, Tampa Bay relievers threw seven no-hit innings, and the Rays handed Baltimore its 15th consecutive road loss, the club's worst road skid since it moved from St. Louis to Baltimore in 1954.

After opener Michael Wacha allowed one run and two hits, Josh Fleming (6-4) entered in the third and walked one — with two outs in the third that was the last Orioles' baserunner — over four innings.

Taylor Walls had a two-run single against Bruce Zimmermann (4-4) for a 3-1 lead in the fourth. Tampa Bay is major league-best 42-24 and has won 23 of their last 28. The Rays are 6-0 against the Orioles this year.

White Sox 4, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Carlos Rodón (6-2) took a no-hit bid into the seventh before Eric Haase's one-out double, and Chicago completed a three-game sweep.

AP
Toronto Blue Jays right fielder Teoscar Hernández, center right, celebrates with Marcus Semien (10) and Bo Bichette, right, after Hernández hit a three-run home run in the first inning of a baseball game, as Boston Red Sox's Kevin Plawecki, left, looks on, Sunday, June 13, 2021, in Boston.

Rodón allowed one run and one hit in seven innings. Evan Marshall and Liam Hendriks completed the one-hitter, with Hendriks getting his AL-leading 17th save.

The White Sox took a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning on

José Abreu hit a go-ahead single in the fourth off Tyler Alexander (0-1).

Brewers 5, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, Avisail Garcia hit a two-run homer off David Bednar (0-1), Christian Yelich added a pinch-hit sacrifice fly on his bobblehead day and Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep to win for the 14th time in 16 games.

Pittsburgh has lost seven straight.

Brent Suter (8-3) got the final out in the sixth, and Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth for his 17th save.

Athletics 6, Royals 3

In Oakland, Calif., Chris Bassitt escaped a scary line drive to win his seventh straight decision and Matt Olson homered twice for Oakland.

Bassitt (7-2) had a scare in the second when Nicky Lopez's screaming liner glanced off his right side for an RBI single. The pitcher, clearly shaken, went face down in the grass with his arms spread for several moments as athletic trainer Nick Paparesta and manager Bob Melvin scurried to check on him, but Bassitt stayed in the game.

The hit by Lopez loaded the bases, but Bassitt regrouped and got Whit Merrifield on a called third strike to escape further damage.

Kris Bubic (1-2) took the loss.

Angels 10, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Max Stassi hit a two-run homer in the first, Patrick Sandoval pitched four-hit ball into the seventh and the Los Angeles Angels won their sixth straight game.

The Angels moved above .500 for the first time since May 1 at 33-32. The Diamondbacks have lost 10 straight games and 33 of 38, falling to a big-league worst 20-46 this season.

Stassi and Angels took a 6-0 lead in the second off Jon Duvall (0-3).

Sandoval (1-2) gave up two

earned runs, struck out four and walked two.

Dodgers 5, Rangers 3

In Los Angeles, Mookie Betts knows he's struggling. He still homered and scored three runs.

The Dodgers' bullpen let six straight Rangers reach base and allowed three runs in the ninth. Kenley Jansen still got three gritty outs with the bases loaded to end it.

Manager Dave Roberts was thoroughly unhappy with his team's performance. Los Angeles still moved within one game of the overall NL lead.

The standards are simply higher when you're the defending World Series champions, and the Dodgers are winning even when they aren't meeting their own expectations.

Walker Buehler pitched six scoreless innings of five-hit ball to remain unbeaten since 2019, and the Dodgers held off Texas 5-3 on Sunday when Jansen escaped a bases-loaded, nobody-out jam.

Cubs 2, Cardinals 0

In Chicago, Zach Davies tossed two-hit ball into the seventh inning to outduel Carlos Martínez, and the Chicago Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 2-0 on Sunday night to complete a three-game sweep.

The Cubs have won five straight and 15 of 20 to remain in a tie with the Milwaukee Brewers atop the NL Central. Chicago kept up its success at Wrigley Field, where it has won six in a row and nine of 10.

"These guys are playing at a high level," manager David Ross said. "They're playing with a ton of confidence. I think the talent is showing up on a nightly basis. I think we find a way to win every single night. It's a good feeling to have a nice homestand and sweep a division opponent."

Astros 14, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Michael Brantley had his second four-hit game of the series and drove in four runs, part of a 20-hit attack that helped the Houston Astros rout Minnesota 14-3 Sunday to take two of three from the Twins.

Minnesota's Michael Pineda (3-4) left after four innings due to a reoccurrence of right forearm soreness that first bothered him June 1. In his second start since returning, he allowed three runs and six hits — raising his totals to 10 runs over 11 1/3 innings in his last three starts.

Kyle Tucker homered for the second straight game and had three hits for the Astros, who also swept the Twins in last year's wild-card playoff round. Yordan Álvarez and Chas McCormick homered.

Djokovic claims 19th Slam with 5-set comeback at French Open

PARIS (AP)—Novak Djokovic left the court to go to the locker room for a little chat with himself after dropping the first two sets of the French Open final Sunday.

Part of him worried he was too diminished and depleted to overcome that deficit against his younger, fresher foe, Stefanos Tsitsipas. And another part of Djokovic insisted he would.

Guess which side was right?

Aided by flawless serving down the stretch, a determined Djokovic summoned his imperious best and came all the way back to beat Tsitsipas 6-7 (6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 for his second championship at Roland Garros and 19th Grand Slam title overall — one away from the men's record shared by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

"There's always two voices inside: There is one telling you that you can't do it, that it's done, it's finished. That voice was pretty strong after that second set," Djokovic said.

"So I felt that that was a time for me to actually vocalize the other voice and try to suppress the first one that was saying I can't make it. I told myself I can do it. Encouraged myself."

I strongly started to repeat that inside of my mind, tried to live it with my entire being."

After ending the match with a leaping volley, Djokovic who spread his arms, tapped his chest and crouched to touch the red clay at Court Philippe Chatrier. When he went to the sideline, he handed his racket to a boy in the stands he said had been offering advice throughout.

Once the third set was underway, Djokovic felt better and played better.

"After that," he said, "there was not much of a doubt for me."

Yes, his triumph went from in danger to inevitable: Djokovic did not face a break point in any of the last three sets.

Djokovic became one of three men — alongside Rod Laver and Roy Emerson

and in the most goals scored (38) and allowed the least (6).

Paire finished fourth with its 7-1-6 record.

NMI U18 B 3, The One FC 1

The NMI Boys National U18 Team A wrapped up the season with a close victory over The One FC.

Philip Megino, Ezekiel Canape, and Ruben Guerrero delivered one goal apiece for NMI U18 B, which earned four wins in the competition. Ming Guang Xu nailed the lone goal for The One FC, which recorded only two victories this season.



AP
Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the cup after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece during their final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium Sunday, June 13, 2021 in Paris.

out of it," Tsitsipas said. "I felt like I kind of lost my game a little bit."

This was the first major final for Tsitsipas and the 29th for Djokovic, who also won the 2016 French Open, to go with nine titles at the Australian Open, five at Wimbledon and three at the U.S. Open.

Also key: Djokovic is 35-10 in five-setters — including a men's-record 32 wins at majors — while Tsitsipas is 5-5.

"Two sets doesn't really mean anything," said Tsitsipas, who was trying to become the first Greek to win a major.

He needed about 100 minutes to grab his lead on a sunny, breezy afternoon with the temperature approaching 80 degrees Fahrenheit (over 25 degrees Celsius) and attendance limited to 5,000, about a third of capacity, because of COVID-19 restrictions.

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 20

Tenorio added one. MP United collected 35 goals and gave up 12 in 14 games. Kanoa made 19 and yielded 29 after ending the season with a 3-4-7 slate.

NMI U18 A 7, Paire 0

The NMI Boys National U18 Team A placed second in the final team standings after easing past Paire last Sunday.

Kohtaroto Goto and Richard Steele made three goals apiece for NMI U18 A, while Akira Kadokura chipped in one. NMI U18 had a 9-5-0 mark this season and was also sec-

— to have won each major twice. As the reigning champion at the Australian Open and French Open, he heads to Wimbledon, which starts June 28, eyeing another rare achievement: He is halfway to joining Laver and Don Budge as the only men with a calendar-year Grand Slam.

The 34-year-old Djokovic eliminated 13-time French Open champion Nadal — a challenge the Serb likened to

scaling Mt. Everest — in a semifinal that lasted more than four hours Friday night.

That was only Nadal's third loss in 108 matches at the clay-court major tournament.

Djokovic also defeated Nadal in the 2015 quarterfinals before losing that year's final. It appeared the same fate awaited Sunday, when the 22-year-old Tsitsipas had the upper hand against a drained Djokovic.

"It was not easy for me,"

Djokovic said, "both physically and mentally."

But he eventually completed his sixth career comeback from two sets down — and second of the past week.

Djokovic—who trailed 19-year-old Lorenzo Musetti two sets to none in the fourth round—is the first man in the professional era to win a major title after twice facing a 2-0 deficit in sets during the tournament.

"Suddenly just felt cold and

WALSH

From Page 20

ways been my first love. I enjoy sharing what I know with the next generation of ball enthusiasts. What a great event the Rotaract members put on. Thank you to them and all of the participants. I can't wait to defend my titles next year," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

In the other events, Ben Rayphand won the "Around-the-World Challenge," completing it in less than a minute. He won a case of iced tea, Oreo Thins, and a box of granola bars.

Aside from the free-throw, half-court, and an around-the-world competitions, last Saturday's 2021 Summer Shoot-Out and Family Sports Fiesta also featured stations where children and their families could try out different sports and games like mini-basketball, table tennis, soccer, badminton, cornhole, and bocce.

In an interview, Rotaract president Keoni Hosono and director of club service Richard Baleares said they were both pleased with the turnout at their events this year.

"I think today we had a

good turnout. Our goal was to make an opportunity for the youth and their parents to have fun and get active, and [just by] looking at the smiles on the faces of our participants and our volunteers, I'd say that we did a good job," said Hosono.

"From the club side, it's nice to see us work hard despite the challenges we faced last month to make sure that this event gets done. I'm really [thankful] for all the members that showed up today and took part in planning," said Baleares.

Next up for Rotaract is its Summer Showdown on June

26, which will be a tournament featuring Super Smash Brothers Ultimate and Tekken 7.

The venue remains to be decided, and the Rotaract asks those interested to check its social media accounts for updates.

The club's Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/rotaractsaipan> and on Instagram and Twitter @rotaractclubofsaipan and @rotaractsaipan, respectively.

The registration link for the e-sports tournament can be found at <https://smash.gg/tournament/rotaract-summer-showdown/details>.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 20

Shaking the cobwebs in their debut, Shirley's went on to dominate their next match-up against a hapless Community Badminton Club side, 15-3, last Saturday. Galvez and Jadel Ignacio gave the team a quick 3 points by dominating Nathan Guerrero and Ella Serrano, 21-10, 21-12. Ito and Fernandez kept the ball rolling with a 17-21, 21-11, 21-11 victory over Serrano and Lani Santos. Wang and Manuel made it three in a row following a 21-12, 21-12 shellacking of Yoko and Taka Borja.

Hajin Oh and Taka Borja gave CBC something to smile about after outlasting Wang and Lei, 21-16, 19-21, 21-19 before Shouck and Fernandez completed the near shutout with a 21-7, 21-8 beatdown of Gigi Zapanta and Arriane Antonio.

Later that Saturday, Shirley's kept its momentum going with a 13-5 victory over Golden Racquet Badminton Club. Wang and Lazaro gave them a 3-0 lead after a 21-14, 21-15 win over Alex Nguyen and Amor Malasarte. Galvez and Gallardo then took a 21-13, 21-24 victory over Allan Relativo and Nap Balingit. Golden Racquet scored a win over Shirley's after Jordan Pangelinan and Miles Guerrero plastered a 21-9, 21-8 beating over Gladys Dacumos and Lei. Ito and Ignacio got Shirley's back on track with a hard-fought 18-21, 21-16, 21-17 triumph over Hiroko Tajima and Sun Young Kim. Malasarte and King then got the better of Puy Macario and David Li, 15-21, 21-17, 21-18, to give Shirley's another 2 points, before Fernandez and Shouck wrapped up the match with a 21-5, 21-18 win over Hannah Santos and Patricia Surima.

In its last game, Shirley's got a victory lap following a 12-6 win over Taga Badminton Club. Gallardo and Manuel were 21-8, 21-16 victors over Allan Lee and Rommel Monserat. Ito and Fernandez followed that up with a 21-14, 21-15 conquest of Nicole Macaranas and Merlie Tolentino. Galvez and Lazaro then teamed up to defeat Kazuko Sondheim and Kevin Barros, 21-9, 21-13, before Lei and Malasarte grinded it out with a 21-18, 8-21, 21-20 edging of Hapi Gabriel and Ian Lubao. Hannah Choi and Mika Serrano gave Taga its first win over Shirley's after easily handling Dacumos and Ignacio, 21-4, 21-10. Dan Macario and Joseph Torres then salvaged a 21-17, 19-21, 21-19 victory over Gallardo and Wang to complete the matches.

Galvez was humble after Shirley's domination of the Northern Marianas Badminton

Association-organized competition.

"I did not expect my team to be the champions, like everyone else we came to play and to have fun, but I am very grateful for my team who made the experience a very memorable one. I am also happy and proud of the new players who are really new to the sport, considering this was their first-ever tournament, they showed tremendous love and commitment to the game and more importantly becoming part of the NMBA family," he said.

Golden Racquet finished second with 37 points, followed by Taga with 35 points with UBC and CBC finishing with totals of 29 and 28 points, respectively.

The TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament awarded 3 points for sweeps, 2 points for wins, and 1 point for losses.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	42	24	.636	—
Boston	39	27	.591	3
Toronto	33	30	.524	7½
New York	33	32	.508	8½
Baltimore	22	42	.344	19

Central Division

Chicago	41	24	.631	—
Cleveland	34	28	.548	5½
Kansas City	30	34	.469	10½
Detroit	26	39	.400	15
Minnesota	26	39	.400	15

West Division

Oakland	40	27	.597	—
Houston	37	28	.569	2
Los Angeles	33	32	.508	6
Seattle	32	35	.478	8
Texas	25	41	.379	14½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	32	25	.561	—
Philadelphia	32	31	.508	3
Atlanta	30	33	.476	5
Miami	29	36	.446	7
Washington	27	35	.435	7½

Central Division

Chicago	38	27	.585	—
Milwaukee	38	27	.585	—
Cincinnati	32	31	.508	5
St. Louis	32	33	.492	6
Pittsburgh	23	41	.359	14½

West Division

San Francisco	40	25	.615	—
Los Angeles	39	26	.600	1
San Diego	38	29	.567	3
Colorado	25	41	.379	15½
Arizona	20	46	.303	20½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

M-LEAGUE SPRING 2021

DIVISION A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
TanHoldings	14	11	1	2	47	19	28	34
NMI U18 A	14	9	5	0	38	6	32	32
MP United	14	10	2	2	35	12	23	32
Paire FC	14	7	1	6	36	28	8	22
NMI U18 B	14	4	3	7	26	27	-1	15
Kanoa	14	3	4	7	19	29	-10	13
The One FC	14	2	1	11	16	47	-31	7
Old B Bank	14	1	1	12	6	53	-47	4



MVP Nikola Jokic ejected, Suns sweep Nuggets, 125-118

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Djokovic claims 19th Slam with 5-set comeback at French Open

PAGE 19



20 TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Shirley's Badminton Club tops team badminton tourney

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The whirring sound of shuttlecocks and the squeaking of flat-soled sneakers were back at the TSL Sports Complex over the weekend as the 2021 TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament unfolded with Shirley's Badminton Club dominating the competition.

The team made up of captain Andreu Galvez, Lance Gallardo, Walker Wang, Jerry Tan, Leonard Manuel, Windy Fernandez, Loida Ito, Rowena Shouck, Irish Pagarao, Roxe Lazaro, Jadel Ignacio, Gladys Dacumos, Joseph King, Jerome Malasarte, and Perry Lei finished on top of the heap with 50 total points and was declared champion of

the two-day tournament.

Shirley's started their rampage with a narrow 10-8 win over United Badminton Club on Friday. Jerry Tan and Roxe Lazaro dropped the team's first match, losing to John Oh and Min Hee Oh, 8-21, 17-21. Perry Lee and Walker Wang then got Shirley's on the board by default over Gary Bandoja and Leo Xu before Loida Ito and Rowena Shouck gave Shirley's the lead after nipping Lucille Lampera and Christy Villafior,

21-17, 17-21, 21-17.

Lance Gallardo and Leonard Manuel made it two in a row for Shirley's after they beat up Paul Xiong and Henry Quian, 21-8, 21-7. After Joseph King and Jerome Malasarte dropped a two-setter against Leo Xu and Sung Kim, 20-21, 19-21, Andreu Galvez and Windy Fernandez avenged that defeat and basically clinched the matchup with an easy 21-6, 21-10 win.

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 19



TanHoldings clinches M-League title



By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TanHoldings Football Club players pose for a photo after their title win against Old B Bank, 6-1, in Division A of the M-League Spring 2021 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings Football Club crushed Old B Bank, 6-1, to bag the championship in Division A of the M-League Spring 2021 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



TanHoldings finished the double-round robin competition with an 11-1-2 win-draw-loss record, foiling MP United Football Club's bid to steal the division crown. MP United, which posted a 10-2-2 mark after winning its final game of the season against Kanoa Football Club last Thursday, 6-0, would

have clinched the top spot in the final team standings had TanHoldings lost to the Old B Bank last weekend.

Five different players scored in TanHoldings' title-clinching victory with Martin Jambor starting things off for the champion squad after hitting the board in the 12th minute. Brandon Tenorio and Mareko Tekopua also found

the back of net in the first half for TanHoldings with their goals in the 18th and 38th minute, respectively.

TanHoldings made it four in a row, courtesy of Ryuto Yanai's conversion in the 43rd minute, while John Tam ended Old B Bank's long silence with a goal in the 51st minute. Both teams then went cold for nearly 20 minutes before TanHoldings added two more goals, one came from Old B Bank's miscue and the other from Michiteru Mita.

With its six goals in last weekend's match, TanHoldings did not only win the Di-

vision A title, but also led the group in goals scored with its 47 goals. Old B Bank registered only six goals and was at the bottom of the standings with its 1-1-12 record.

MP United 6, Kanoa 0

MP United settled for the third place honors in the finals rankings despite its shutout victory over Kanoa.

Joshua Abragan fired two goals for MP United, while Razeff Altamirano, Bada Lee, Alan Hinson, and Sunjoon

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 19

Walsh swooshes most free throws, sinks 2 from half court

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
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REPORTER

Adam Walsh came out the biggest winner in last Saturday's 2021 Summer Shoot-Out and Family Sports Fiesta organized by Rotaract Club of Saipan at the Kagman Community Center.

Walsh topped the "Free-Throw Competition" by making 16 shots from the 15-foot line in a span of a minute. He continued his sharpshooting ways by also winning the "Half-Court Bomber Challenge" after swooshing two in half a dozen attempts. He made his first shot from half court in his third attempt and made his second on his sixth try.

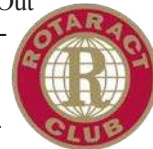
He went home with a case of iced tea, boxes of snacks, and a free lunch for one at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Miyako Japanese restaurant for winning the "Free-Throw Compe-

tion." He then got a bunch of snacks and a small duffle bag from Joeten Enterprises for triumphing in the "Half-Court Bomber Challenge."

The 35-year-old Northern Marianas School instructor said he wouldn't have won the two events without the skills and training passed on to him by his father.

"I attribute my skills to my father who played college ball at the University of Montana. He had a ball in my hands as soon as I could walk. I played AAU basketball in North Idaho as a kid growing up. My position was typically point guard. I had the pleasure of coaching several seasons of [Public School System] high school basketball on island at [Saipan] Southern High [School] and Kagman [High School]. Basketball has al-

See WALSH on Page 19



JOSHUA SANTOS

Adam Walsh makes his attempt from half-court during the Rotaract Club of Saipan's Summer Shoot-Out and Family Sports Fiesta last Saturday at the Kagman Community Center.